PENN PAL
SCARLETT AND SEAN STEP OUT
DISH {page 25}

TORONTO metro®
Wednesday, March 23, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Linked. In opposition

▶ Greenpeace protesters, from left, Brooke Forbes, Laura Severinac and Thomas Rohner are handcuffed and inspected yesterday in preparation for arrest by a Durham Regional Police officer at the Hope Fellowship Church in Courtice.

YVONNE BERG/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Giving a green piece of their minds

Protesters from Greenpeace were arrested after they chained themselves to a table during public hearings into an expansion at the Darlington nuclear plant.

Too soon to talk red light?

Councillor accuses colleague of exploiting escort's death {page 3}

Gadhafi undeterred

Civilians bear brunt of fighting in key western city {pages 8-9}

Prepare for spring campaign

▶ Government almost certain to fall this week ▶ It could happen on budget vote tomorrow or non-confidence motion Friday on Tories' alleged ethical shortcomings

It's a federal budget that looks and reads like an election-campaign platform, and that's what it appears destined to become within days.

All three opposition parties immediately rejected Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's new spending blueprint yesterday, setting the country on course for an early May election — the fourth in seven years.

The Tories could yet save themselves — theoretically — with a dramatic rewrite of the budget. But Flaherty said there is "no chance" of that happening.

NDP Leader Jack Layton sealed the government's fate when he rejected a budget that had appeared tailored to tempt his support. The highly politicized document is packed with populist, boutique programs that include partial nods to NDP demands, such as an extended home energy retrofit program, improved pensions for the poorest seniors, and measures to boost access to health-care professionals.

But the spending measures are extremely modest and tightly targeted.

"We're seeing the proliferation of these small credits," said Bruce Flexman of the Chartered Accountants of Canada. "They're obviously trying to sprinkle these amounts, (but) there's not much money there."

Layton ended the suspense moments after Flaherty finished his budget speech in the House of Commons.

"Mr. Harper had an opportunity to address the needs of hard-working, middle-class Canadians and families and he missed that opportunity," Layton told a throng of reporters. "He just doesn't get it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I think we had hundreds of consultations across the country. We met with all the opposition parties and heard their concerns. I think we responded. This is not Let's Make A Deal."
JOHN BAIRD, CONSERVATIVE HOUSE LEADER

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 7, 14 & 15

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Cut city bonuses must be paid: Ministry

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Coun. Peter Milczyn

The City of Toronto was wrong to take away about $5 million in bonus pay owed to its non-union managers, according to a Labour Ministry ruling.

The managers filed employment standards complaints with the ministry after the former administration of mayor David Miller decided in 2009 to cancel payment of bonuses earned the previous year.

In a 19-page ruling, an employment standards officer concluded the three per cent bonuses constituted wages already earned that must be paid by the employer.

The Miller administration has also cancelled bonuses payable in the future, but the complaint focused on the decision to scrap bonuses already earned the previous year.

"The council decision in 2009 was to take it away retroactively, and that was the key," said Matt Kellway, a spokesperson for Toronto Municipal Professionals, which represented some of the managers.

Council had been warned at the time that it was legally dicey to retroactively cancel bonuses, said Coun. Peter Milczyn. "We knew at the time that it was a problematic decision."

Under Mayor Rob Ford, the manager bonuses remain cancelled while a report is being drafted on overhauling the city's compensation program.

The tab to repay the bonuses puts additional pressure on the 2012 budget, which already had a $774-million hole to fill, said Coun. Doug Holyday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Timing of red-light push questioned

Mammoliti eyeing Toronto Island for designated prostitution site

As Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti's campaign for a red-light district picks up steam, another councillor is questioning his timing.

Ward 28 Coun. Pam McConnell represents Toronto Island, the spot Mammoliti suggests is the best location for the city to stash prostitutes and johns.

"This is not the time to be discussing this," McConnell said, referencing the female escort whose body was recently found in Caledon. "He's just trying to get headlines around a tragic death."

The death of the call girl and proximity of the sex trade to schools, libraries and playgrounds are reasons why Mammoliti says a designated area, properly patrolled by authorities, is for the best.

McConnell said that way of thinking is naive.

"It is not true that women will be corralled into one area," McConnell said. "To suggest that an iconic park should be the place to dump this district is an insult to Torontonians."

When a judge ruled in favour of decriminalizing prostitution last September, Mammoliti said it was time to consider ways of removing the trade from the rest of the city.

"The courts have ruled on this," Mammoliti said. "We need to have a conversation now. We need to get them away from our residential areas."

Although Mammoliti says Toronto Island is a logical location, he adds "there shouldn't be one area in the city that shouldn't be looked at" and the district could become a tourist attraction. MARK HERBERT

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Ward 28 Coun. Pam McConnell is opposed to Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti's red-light district campaign.

1 news

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Greenpeace activists do what they do best at Ontario nuclear power hearings. Video at metronews.ca

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ONTARIO

Use of food banks on the rise: Report

A new report by the Ontario Association of Food Banks suggests a growing number of people in the province are turning to charity for nourishment.

The report released yesterday says food bank use has increased by 28 per cent since 2008.

3% The report says as many as 400,000 Ontario residents — or 3.1 per cent — rely on food banks every month.

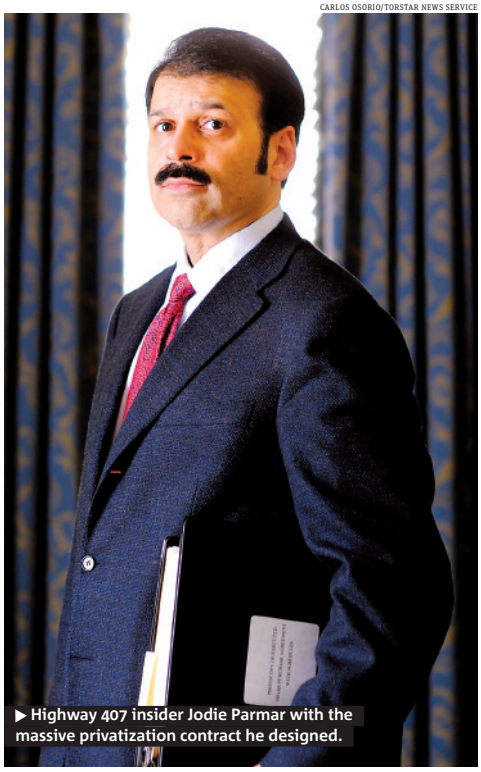
The report blames the trend on several factors, including the recent recession and a lack of affordable housing for low-income families.

It also says the average profile of those using food banks has shifted over the past decade, with single adults comprising the largest portion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McGuinty says he's open to $1B plan

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ Highway 407 insider Jodie Parmar with the massive privatization contract he designed.

Owner of Hwy. 407 says toll disputes were dealt with in 2006

Premier Dalton McGuinty says he's "all ears" to a proposal that could return $1 billion to Ontarians from the owners of Highway 407.

As disclosed by the Toronto Star yesterday, the architect of the $3.1-billion highway sale in 1999 says there are clauses buried in the contract favourable to the province.

Jodie Parmar, who was vice-president of the Ontario government's privatization secretariat, said the 15-centimetre-thick agreement and its enabling legislation contain provisions that could help rein in skyrocketing tolls and boost property tax revenues from 407 International Inc.

McGuinty, who faces an $18.7-billion deficit and an election Oct. 6, acknowledged yesterday he is intrigued by Parmar's scheme.

"We are very much open to sitting down and having some of our representatives meet with this individual and hear from him any ideas that he might have," the premier said.

But McGuinty, whose government lost in court to 407 International in 2006 over a bid to regulate soaring tolls, is not optimistic that money can be recovered.

"We don't see that at this point in time, but if he has something that's there and it is real then we're all ears," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

And in return

A key stumbling block is that Jodie Parmar is seeking a percentage of any savings he finds as compensation. He has also said he would accept payment in the form of a government appointment or increased provincial funding to fight ovarian cancer.

New trial for teacher on child porn charges

Ontario's highest court has ordered a new trial for a northeastern Ontario high school teacher on child pornography-related charges.

But evidence seized by police from the teacher's school laptop, a mirror image of the laptop and a CD containing temporary Internet files should be excluded, the Ontario Court of Appeal said in a ruling released yesterday.

A computer technician at the school accessed the contents of the teacher's laptop during routine maintenance and found nude, sexually explicit images of a Grade 10 student on the hard drive.

He advised the principal, who directed the technician to copy the images onto a disc and ordered the teacher to hand over the laptop.

A school board official searched the laptop and copied temporary Internet files from the teacher's Internet surfing history onto another disc.

The two discs and the laptop were turned over to the police, who searched them without a warrant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Activists moved during nuclear hearing

ANAND MAHARAJ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Greenpeace protesters in Courtice disrupt the second day of hearings yesterday into four proposed nuclear reactors in the province.

After failing Monday to have hearings into proposed new nuclear reactors postponed, Greenpeace protesters succeeded yesterday in stalling hearings for half a day by chaining themselves to a hearing room table.

But the four protesters were freed from the table after more than four hours and marched off by police, still with the heavy chains wrapped around their waists.

Police had told the four — whom they also handcuffed while wrapped in chains — that they would be charged with mischief.

The hearings are being held in a church in the village of Courtice, east of Oshawa and close to the site of the Darlington nuclear plant.

Ontario Power Generation has proposed building two reactors at Darlington.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency have formed a joint panel to examine the safety and environmental aspects of the project.

Panel chair Alan Graham, who had asked police for help in clearing the room, said as the panel reconvened that he will move the hearings if necessary.

"Yesterday we ruled that these hearings will proceed, and rules are rules," Graham said. "Whether we proceed here or in another venue, we will proceed."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Chained to a table

- When the protesters refused to budge, the panel chair called a halt.
- "We're not prepared to leave until they stop the hearings," protester Alex Speers-Roesch said as he sat at the front in chains.
- A four-hour standoff ensued as police tried to negotiate a compromise with the protesters.

Vehicle clocked at 190 km/h impounded

Police have charged a man after stopping a speeding vehicle in the Chatham area. The driver had a blood-alcohol level twice the legal limit and was not carrying a valid licence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man facing charges in food fight

A man in Chatham faces charges after his father was attacked with a bag of food. Police say the father refused to give the 33-year-old son money, and gave him food instead. The man then hit his father with the bag of food.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TANYA TALAGA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Tim Hudak

Hudak says he'd pull the plug on Ontario Power Authority

Provincial Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak says he would pull the plug on the Ontario Power Authority if he is elected premier this fall.

"This is a needless layer of bureaucracy that is getting fatter and fatter every year," Hudak told reporters at the provincial legislature yesterday. "We would close the doors on this wasteful bureaucracy and pass on the savings to the hydro bills of Ontario families."

The independent non-profit corporation oversees the province's energy system and answers to the Ministry of Energy.

Hudak said the agency duplicates work that is already being done by the ministry and local utilities.

"The OPA might as well be called the Ontario Propaganda Authority," Hudak said. "They're using money from your hydro bills to throw up ads promoting the government."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dead escort 'not a kid who had fear'

Woman arrived in Toronto in December and found job as an escort at Cachet Ladies agency

When a teenage Kera Freeland posted the escort ad on Craigslist, she was excited to make some money and take control of life.

"Her and another girl, they were always going to travel as a pair," said Madelyn McDonald, the program manager at a Calgary youth shelter. "Nothing was going to happen to them."

Thousands of young people move in and out of the Wood's Homes Exit shelter in Calgary. Freeland's striking face was one McDonald never forgot. Freeland, who had recently worked as an escort in Toronto, was last seen in mid-January. Her body was found last week in a Caledon ditch. Her death remains suspicious; OPP are awaiting the toxicology results from an autopsy. McDonald was saddened by the death but not surprised. "This was not a kid who had fear," she said. "I do recall her being dropped off in this shelter in this car once, saying these were some guys she had just met."

"If she wasn't murdered, how did she end up in a ditch on the side of the road in the middle of nowhere?"
CHRIS, FRIEND AND ROOMMATE FROM TORONTO

Chris, a roommate and friend in Toronto who didn't want his last name used, said he last met Freeland Jan. 16, when he and his mother shared a pancake breakfast with her.

"I'd just let her talk, just get whatever she needed out of it," said Chris.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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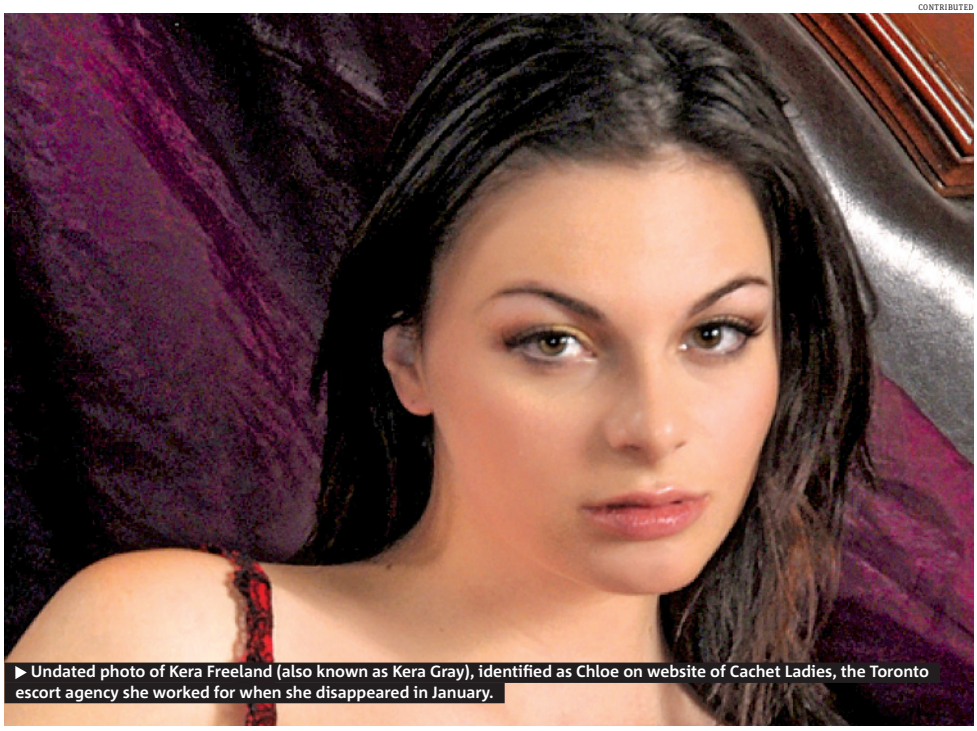

▶ Undated photo of Kera Freeland (also known as Kera Gray), identified as Chloe on website of Cachet Ladies, the Toronto escort agency she worked for when she disappeared in January.

Complaint choir crows at St. Lawrence Market

Loud talkers and escalator blockers.

The ever-losing Leafs and the TTC. Dog poo in the street. Pee on the seat. Nosy neighbours and noisy neighbours.

Torontonians, when invited, were not shy to complain.

The Toronto Complaints Choir listened carefully and spent a month putting the city's pet peeves to song.

The newly formed singing group took over the St. Lawrence Market yesterday afternoon for its first public performance — an eight-minute mélange of all things irritating.

"There's something refreshing about letting go of your complaints, getting them off your chest," said Julie McNeill, a graphic designer who signed up to sing in the choir.

"We don't want to depress people. But who doesn't complain?"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Bryce Kulak conducts the song he wrote for the Toronto Complaints Choir. The eight-minute song was performed at the St. Lawrence Market yesterday.

"It's also about making fun of complaining," added choir member Sylvia Bereskin.

"And complaining in fun."

More than 1,000 complaints have rolled in since organizers invited Torontonians to spill their gripes last fall.

Residents had a lot to complain about, from unripe avocados to the G20 to Mayor Rob Ford.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Complaints

- **Leafs** Why do the Maple Leafs always lose?
- **Pears** Stickers on pears pull the skin right off.
- **Rocks** I hate getting tiny rocks in my shoes.
- **Updates** Nobody cares about your status updates.
- **Sneeze** Please use your sleeve when you sneeze or you cough.

Teacher IDs accused in Manners slaying

The retrial of two men charged with killing 15-year-old Jordan Manners heard yesterday that one of the accused had dropped out of school.

Physical education teacher Tracey Galbrath testified the accused known as C.D. was seen at the school on the day of the murder, despite having dropped out of C.W. Jefferys Collegiate.

C.D. and his co-accused J.W. were 17 when Manners was fatally shot in a stairwell in the Toronto school in May 2007 and both have pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Body found in west-end apartment

Toronto police are treating the discovery of a woman's body in the city's west end as suspicious. Police were called yesterday morning to an apartment at 65 Emmett Ave., near Jane Street and Weston Road. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Service station to hold gas sale tomorrow

Commuters will get a break at the pump from at least one service station tomorrow, thanks to the 10-cent event at Canadian Tire at Sheppard and Leslie.

Between 6 and 9 a.m., motorists can fill their tanks for 10 cents per litre less on all grades. "We're looking to take advantage of drive-time traffic," said Andrea Ongaro of Canadian Tire Petroleum. The discount at the pump is the company's way of kicking off a weekend of savings across the country.

"We get involved with a lot of cross-promotions," Ongaro said. "Ten cents (per litre) is a real motivator for customers."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Modest spending fails to please NDP

Budget features aid for seniors, tax breaks for caregivers and money for volunteers, students, doctors and nurses — mostly driven by opposition

The Tories' attempt to brand their fiscal plan as compassionate conservatism failed with one of their target audiences — New Democrat MPs.

Conservatives will almost certainly get a chance within days to sell that brand to a larger audience: The electorate.

The NDP says some of the budget's phrasing was almost word-for-word what the party had been proposing.

But the tone was not matched with substance, says NDP health critic Megan Leslie.

"Those words are in the document, but they don't actually do anything," Leslie said after all three opposition parties announced they would not support the budget.

"You can't settle for scraps."

With a spring federal election now a near certainty, Leslie said the budget sets the stage nicely for a campaign on how to deal properly with the future of health care, poverty, seniors, and caregivers.

Where the NDP wanted $700 million a year to alleviate poverty among seniors, the federal budget allocates about $300 million a year to increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement targeted at the very poorest of poor seniors.

Where the Liberals have been touting $1 billion a year to subsidize the incomes of caregivers, the budget introduces a new tax credit that will cost the treasury $160 million a year and put $300 extra in the pockets of caregivers themselves.

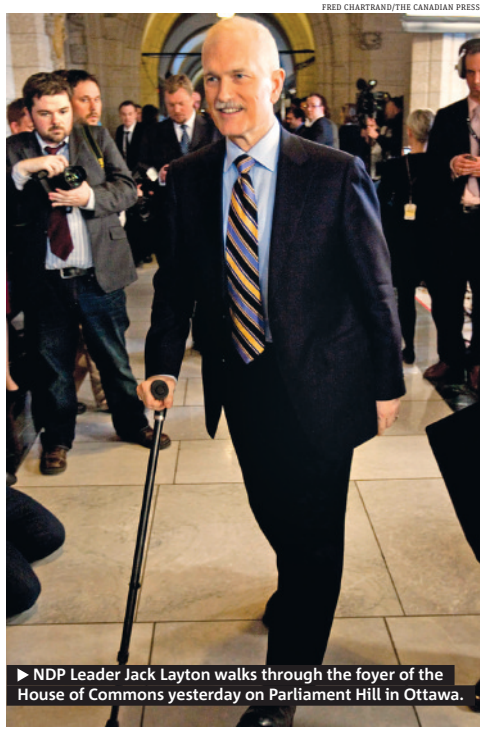
Where the NDP wanted the government to take a central role in training new doctors and nurses, the budget dedicates $9 million a year for student-loan forgiveness for medical personnel who practise in rural areas.

That's less than what they're giving to keep Canadian magazines afloat or what they're dedicating to the health of pigs.

"They've touched on all the major things we talked about, but in each case it doesn't amount to a lot."
SUSAN ENG, VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVOCACY FOR CARP, A LARGE SENIORS' LOBBY GROUP

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ NDP Leader Jack Layton walks through the foyer of the House of Commons yesterday on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Accountant says tax credits amount to 'fairy dust'

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's sixth budget tried to slice off a key plank in a possible Liberal election campaign — education.

With the Liberals, NDP and Bloc Québécois poised to vote against the document, the budget allowed the Conservatives to stake out some territory on education as the country appeared headed to a spring election.

Flaherty offered modest credits that increase exemptions and expand eligibility for Canada Student Loans and Grants by $34 million a year, and invested $9 million over two years to increase adult basic education and opportunities in the North.

Flaherty also offered $10 million in tax relief to Canadian students pursuing post-secondary education abroad.

Bruce Flexman of the Chartered Accountants of Canada said most of the tax credits amounted to "fairy dust" and were "small potatoes" in terms of the size of the economy.

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff

Flaherty's budget also contains new spending aimed at luring the best and brightest foreign students to Canada's halls of higher learning.

The budget provides $10 million over two years to develop "an international education strategy that will reinforce Canada as a country of choice to study and conduct world-class research."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attack ads

Conservative attack ads have accused Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff of "just visiting" for his years living overseas.

Ignatieff has accused the Harper government of insulting Canadians studying and working abroad through attack ads that vilify him for his three decades working in Britain and the United States.

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U.S. to scale back role in coalition

Air strikes overnight into yesterday hit a military port in Tripoli, destroying equipment warehouses and trucks loaded with rocket launchers. Col. Abdel-Baset Ali, operations officer in the port, said the strikes caused millions of dollars in losses, but no human casualties.

But while the air strikes can stop Moammar Gadhafi's troops from attacking rebel cities — in line with the UN mandate to protect civilians — the U.S. has so far been reluctant to go beyond that. The Libyan leader was a target of American air attacks in 1986.

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates and others said the U.S. military's role will lessen in coming days as other countries take on more missions and the need declines for large-scale offensive action.

Two dozen more Tomahawk cruise missiles were launched from U.S. and British submarines, a defence official said earlier in the day. U.S. Navy Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, the on-scene commander, confirmed that brought to 161 the number of Tomahawk strikes aimed at disabling Libyan command and control facilities, air defences and other targets since the operation started Saturday.

Locklear said the additional strikes had expanded the area covered by the no-fly zone.

Asked if international forces were stepping up strikes on Gadhafi ground troops, Locklear said that as the "capability of the coalition" grows, it will be able to do more missions aimed at ground troops who are not complying with the UN resolution to protect those seeking Gadhafi's ouster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joint message

The U.S., Britain and France called on Gadhafi late Friday to end his troops' advance toward Benghazi.

The leaders also called on Gadhafi to pull his troops out of the cities of Misrata, Ajdabiya and Zawiya.

BATTLE FOR

'The number of dead are too many for our hospital to handle': Doctor Most of eastern Libya in rebel hands

Moammar Gadhafi's snipers and tanks are terrorizing civilians in the coastal city of Misrata, a resident said, and the U.S. military warned yesterday it was "considering all options" in response to dire conditions there that have left people cowering in darkened homes and scrounging for food and rainwater.

Libyan state TV broadcast what it said was live coverage of a statement he made to enthusiastic supporters at his residential compound in Tripoli. It would be Gadhafi's first public appearance in a week.

Standing on a balcony, he denounced the coalition bombing attacks on his forces, and told the crowd, "In the short term, we'll beat them, in the long term, we'll beat them."

The state TV said Gadhafi was speaking from his Bab Al-Aziziya residential compound, the same one hit by a cruise missile Sunday night.

"O great Libyan people, you have to live now, this time of glory, this is a time of glory that we are living."
MOAMMAR GADHAFI, ON STATE TV

Heavy anti-aircraft fire and loud explosions sounded in Tripoli after nightfall, possibly a new attack in the international air campaign that so far has focused on military targets.

But conditions have deteriorated sharply in Misrata, the last major city in western Libya held by the rebel force trying to end Gadhafi's four-decade rule. Residents of the city say shelling and sniper attacks are unrelenting. A doctor said tanks opened fire on a peaceful protest Monday.

Neither the rebels nor Gadhafi's forces are strong enough to hold Misrata or Ajdabiya, a key city in the east that is also a daily battleground.

But the air strikes and missiles that are the weapons of choice for international forces may be of limited use.

"When there's fighting in urban areas and combatants are mixing and mingling with civilians, the options are vastly reduced," said Fred Abrahams, a special adviser at Human Rights Watch.

"I can imagine the pressures and desires to protect civilians in Misrata and Ajdabiya are bumping up against the concerns about causing harms to the civilians you seek to protect."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Journalists say they were beaten

DRIVER STILL MISSING. Libyan soldiers physically abused a team of New York Times journalists and threatened to kill them during the six days they were held in captivity, the newspaper said yesterday.

The journalists said they were captured when their driver mistakenly drove into a checkpoint manned by Libyan forces in eastern Libya March 15. Soldiers tied up the journalists with wire, an electrical cord, a scarf and shoelaces, and hit them repeatedly with fists and rifle butts. Photographer Lynsey Addario said she was punched in the face and groped. One soldier stroked her head and told her she was going to die.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France wants committee to oversee the no-fly zone

JOINT OPERATION. With U.S. leaders insisting that a handoff of command of the Libyan operation would come within days, and NATO sidelined by internal division, France has proposed the creation of a committee to run the operation.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said yesterday the new body would bring together foreign ministers of participating states — such as Britain, France and the U.S. — as well as the Arab League.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ID's more oil companies

U.S. SANCTIONS. The Obama administration has identified 14 more oil companies owned by Libya's government and covered by U.S. sanctions.

The Treasury Department says Libya's National Oil Corp. controls the companies. They are involved in oil exploration, production and sales. The United States already has frozen $32 billion in Libyan assets. U.S. President Barack Obama imposed sanctions on $30 billion in Libyan assets last month.

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MISRATA RAGES

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Libyan rebels retreat yesterday as mortars from Moammar Gadhafi's forces are fired on them on the front line of the outskirts of the city of Ajdabiya, south of Benghazi. Coalition forces bombarded Libya for a third straight night, targeting the air defences and forces of Gadhafi, stopping his advances and handing some momentum back to the rebels, who were on the verge of defeat just last week.

City's residents living in fear

Since the uprising began Feb. 15, the opposition has been made up of disparate groups even as it took control of the entire east of the country.

Only a few of the army units that defected have actually joined in the fighting, as officers try to co-ordinate a force with often antiquated, limited equipment.

In Misrata, a doctor said rebel fighters were vastly outgunned.

"The fighters are using primitive tools like swords, sticks and anything they get from the Gadhafi mercenaries," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals if the city falls to Gadhafi's troops.

Mokhtar Ali, a Libyan dissident in exile who is still in touch with his family in Misrata, said rooftop snipers target anyone on the street, and residents trapped inside have no idea who has been killed.

"People live in total darkness in terms of communications and electricity," Ali said. "Residents live on canned food and rainwater tanks."

U.S. Navy Admiral Samuel J. Locklear said intelligence confirmed that Gadhafi's forces were attacking civilians in Misrata, Libya's third-largest city, and said the international coalition was "considering all options" there.

He did not elaborate, but Misrata is one of the cities that U.S. President Barack Obama has demanded that Gadhafi forces evacuate.

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Officials admit they did too little

- Nuclear plant district residents hadn't heard of drills
- Mystified by readings, language used to explain crisis

When the massive earthquake and tsunami rocked northeast Japan March 11, residents who had been prepared by years of drills knew exactly what to do: They scrambled for cover until the shaking stopped, then ran for higher ground to avoid the giant wave.

But when word came that the disasters had left the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant leaking radiation, residents were baffled. Should they run? Stay indoors? Drink the water? Eat the food?

Japan, famous for drilling its citizens on how to prepare for all manner of natural disasters, has done far less to prepare those who live near its many nuclear reactors for emergencies. This has left neighbours of the crippled Fukushima power station confused, misinformed and angry in the face of the country's worst-ever nuclear crisis.

"The only time I ever learned anything in school about nuclear stuff was when we studied about Chernobyl in history class," said Chiyo Maeda, a bank clerk who lived only 25 kilometres from the plant before her home was destroyed by the tsunami. "If we had known more before this happened, maybe we could have reacted more calmly."

Japan takes disaster preparedness seriously. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese take part in an annual drill every Sept. 1, the anniversary of the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake in Tokyo that killed 142,000 people. The exercise, which usually involves the military and civilians, including the prime minister, has sometimes even seen participation by the U.S. Navy.

And yet, in dozens of interviews with The Associated Press, residents evacuated from the most dangerous areas said they never received any information about how to avoid the radiation threat in an emergency, a basic requirement in some other countries that operate nuclear power facilities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

State of reactor

- Workers at the leaking Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant hooked up power lines to all six of the crippled complex's reactor units yesterday.
- With the power lines connected, officials hope to start up the overheated plant's crucial cooling system.
- Emergency crews also dumped 18 tons of sea water into a nearly boiling storage pool holding spent nuclear fuel, cooling it to 50 C.
- Steam, possibly carrying radioactive elements, had been rising for two days from the reactor building. The move lessens the chances that more radiation will seep into the air.

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PAULA BRONSTEIN /GETTY IMAGES

▶ A father feeds his baby while displaced earthquake victims line up for a meal at an evacuation centre yesterday in Kesennuma, Japan.

Children offered shelter in Bosnia

A small Bosnian town has offered to shelter children from disaster-stricken Japan in a sign of gratitude for assistance it received from the Asian country in years following Bosnia's 1992-95 war.

Bojan Dzuvelekovic, owner of the only hotel in the northern town of Ugljevik, said yesterday they hoped to provide a place to stay to 50 children made homeless following Japan's earthquake and tsunami.

Dzuvelekovic said the local community would work hard to organize school and other activities for the children.

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DOMINIC LIPINSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A carriage restorer cleans the Glass Coach at the Royal Mews in London. The coach, built in 1881, will be used to carry Prince William and Kate Middleton in the event of bad weather on their wedding day.

Phantom built for two

Royal brides have typically arrived for weddings in special horse-drawn coaches, but Kate Middleton has decided to travel to ceremony by car

Kate Middleton will be swept off to her April 29 wedding at Westminster Abbey in a distinctive 1997 Rolls-Royce Phantom VI, and will return to Buckingham Palace in a 1902 horse-drawn carriage.

The distinctive claret and black Rolls-Royce, which was damaged in December when Prince Charles and his wife Camilla were attacked by student protesters, will have its paintwork and windows repaired by the royal wedding day, officials said yesterday.

After the ceremony, she and Prince William will ride in an open-topped 1902 State Landau horse-drawn carriage, unless inclement weather leads them to use the famed Glass Coach, which has a fixed roof to keep rain at bay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Divorce of convenience

A court official says Guatemala's first lady is ending her eight-year marriage so she can seek to succeed her husband as president.

Guatemala's constitution prohibits members of a president's extended family from running for the presidency.

Judiciary spokesman Edwin Escobar said divorce proceedings began Monday between Sandra Torres de Colom and President Alvaro Colom, who cannot run for re-election.

No fuss, no muss

▶ If both parties agree, the divorce could be final in about a month.

Torres announced March 8 that she will be the presidential candidate of the governing National Unity for Hope party in the September election.

Torres' spokesman could not be reached for comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stolen underwear leads to arrest

Police say a young New Brunswick man is facing charges after thefts of women's underwear at a couple of homes in Grand Bay-Westfield.

Corey Douglas MacKenzie appeared in court yesterday on two counts of break, enter and theft, along with a third charge, that of breaking probation.

The 20-year-old from Grand Bay-Westfield has been ordered to undergo a five-day psychiatric assessment.

Police say the incidents occurred over the last week.

In one case, the door to the home was not locked and in the other incident, the door may not have been locked.

No one was home on either occasion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Shoppers compare prices at the Brentcliffe Marshalls store in Toronto. The clothing discounter opened last week in an uncertain market as retail sales fell for the second month in a row in January.

Retail sales fall as consumers tighten wallets

Ontario saw sales drop 0.5 per cent But analysts remain optimistic that economy will grow four per cent

Canadian retail sales fell unexpectedly in January, thanks primarily to a drop in new car sales, prompting economists to suggest that the Bank of Canada will take its time raising interest rates.

Retail sales fell for the second month in a row to 0.3 per cent or $37.1 billion in January, Statistics Canada said yesterday — much lower than economists' expectations of a one per cent increase.

The automotive industry had the greatest impact on overall numbers. As fuel prices rose, consumers bought fewer cars and spent less at the pumps, with gas sales falling 1.4 per cent during the month, the first decline since June.

1.7
New car sales dropped 1.7 per cent in January. It was the second month of losses after seven months of gains.

Outside of the auto industry, sales were flat. Seven out of 11 sectors reported they sold less, but food, building supply, sporting goods, and department stores reported increases.

Peter Buchanan, senior economist at CIBC World Markets, said the lower consumer spending together with the weaker core inflation rate of 0.9 per cent released last week gives the Bank of Canada time to put off interest rate hikes.

And BMO Capital Markets economist Benjamin Reitzes said that higher consumer confidence in February and job growth could lead to a rebound.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RIM wagers future on high-stakes PlayBook

Research In Motion shares made a slight gain yesterday after the company announced the North American release date of its BlackBerry PlayBook.

RIM stock fell 13 cents to $60.82 on the Toronto stock exchange before gaining 19 cents to close at $61.14.

The PlayBook will debut April 19 in more than 20,000 stores. While RIM is expected to report strong quarterly results tomorrow, the computer tablet is seen as key to its future as it proves it can innovate and keep up with the latest technology.

National Bank Financial analyst Kris Thompson said he expects the PlayBook to sell a little less than 500,000 units by the end of May, with 350,000 of the tablets going to business users and the rest to consumers.

"In total, we expect RIM to ship 3.6 million units in fiscal 2012 and 6.2 million units in fiscal 2013," Thompson said, adding he expects RIM to grab about seven per cent of the tablet market in 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RBC Capital Markets analyst Mike Abramsky said he predicts the PlayBook will make a strong debut even with stiff competition from Apple Inc.'s iPad 2 and tablets that run on Google's Android operating system such as the Samsung Galaxy and the Motorola Xoom. He estimated the device will add $3 billion in revenue for the Waterloo company in its 2012 fiscal year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the book

1. The BlackBerry PlayBook will be available in three models, featuring 16, 32 and 64 gigabytes of storage capacity.
2. The first generation will rely on Wi-Fi short-range networks to connect to the Internet, initially without contracts with wireless carriers. It can be tethered to a BlackBerry to access email.
3. The units will range in price from $499 to $699.

Activists protest anti-gay app

Apple Inc. is under fire from gay rights groups for listing an iPhone app created by a religious organization that promotes "reparative therapy" for those who want to "recover from homosexuality."

More than 125,000 people have signed an online petition asking the world's biggest computer maker to remove the free app released last month by Exodus International, a ministry group that cites homosexual tendencies as "one of many conditions that beset fallen humanity."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan's Big 3 postpone production

Three of Japan's biggest global brands — Toyota, Sony and Honda — will further delay a return to normal production due to shortages of parts and power after the March 11 earthquake, the companies said yesterday. The quake forced the closure of 11 of Japan's 54 nuclear power plants and damaged hundreds of factories that produce auto parts, electronics components and industrial materials.

The effects are being felt across Asia, from Thailand to South Korea to Taiwan, as manufacturers who rely on imported Japanese semiconductors, auto parts, LCD television panels and chemicals watch inventories dwindle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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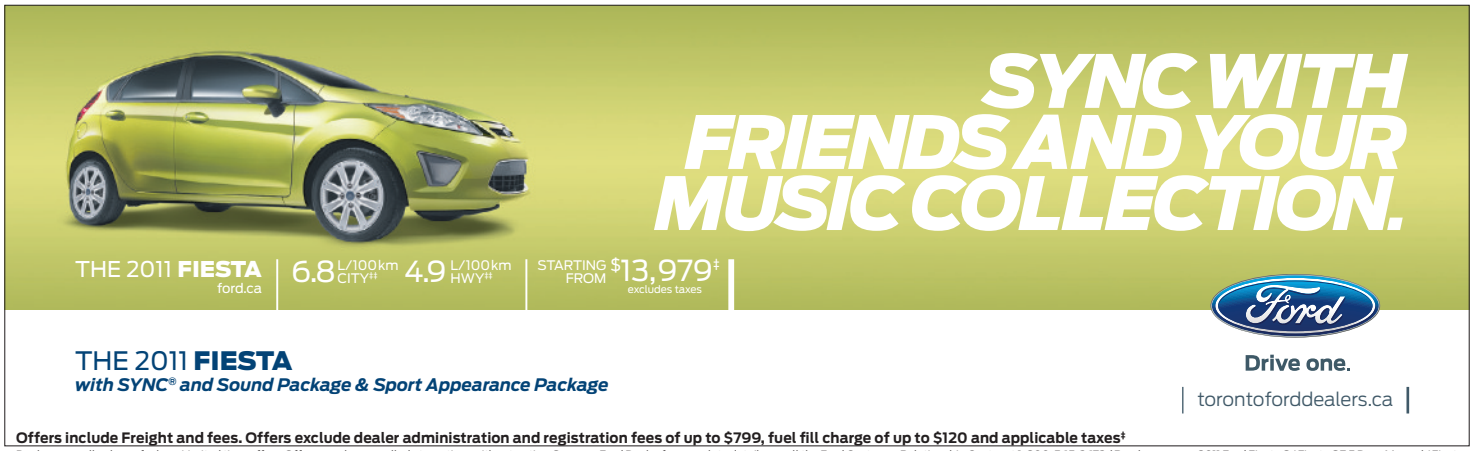

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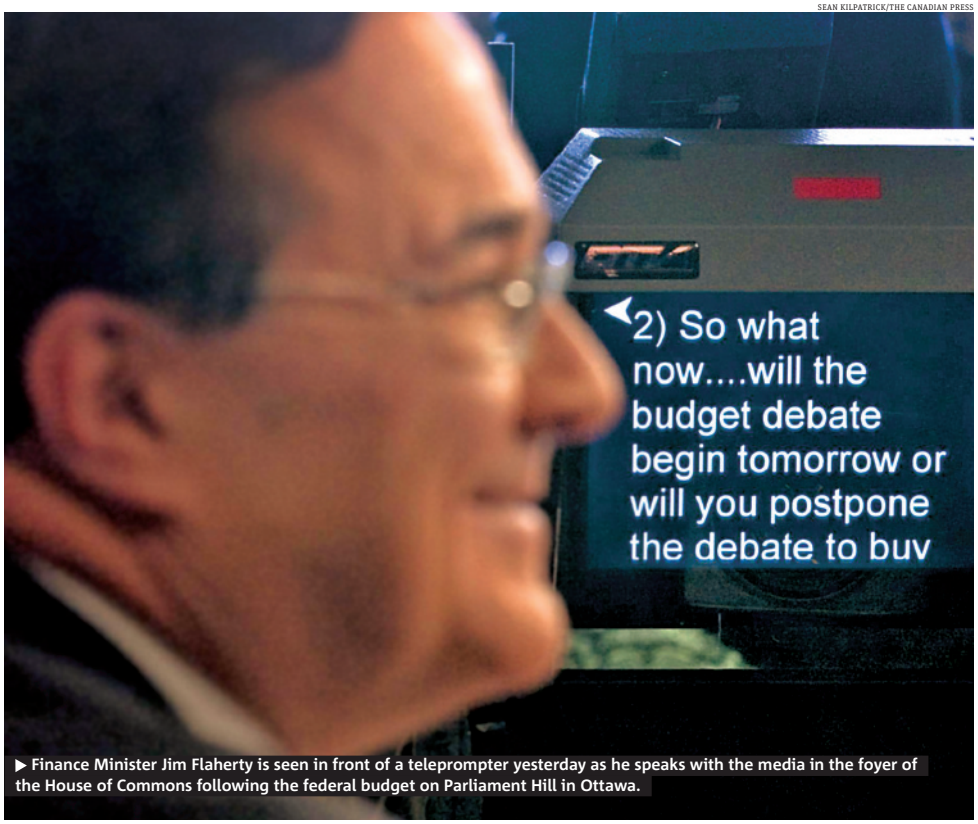

▶ Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is seen in front of a teleprompter yesterday as he speaks with the media in the foyer of the House of Commons following the federal budget on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Extended retool program to

Small business got a boost in the federal budget with a break on employment-insurance premiums and an extension of a program to buy new equipment.

The moves were in addition to the billions in corporate tax cuts already announced that Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has defended as a cornerstone of Ottawa's economic recovery plan.

However, all three opposition leaders rejected the proposed budget as written, setting up a likely non-confidence vote and a spring election

Under the budget, small business would have received a one-time credit worth up to $1,000 to offset increases in employment-insurance premiums. The government estimated the credit would affect 525,000 small businesses.

"The measure will reduce payroll costs for new jobs and encourage hiring," Flaherty said in his budget speech.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business had made an employment insurance premium credit a top priority.

"We give credit to the government for working to balance its books while finding important, low-cost ways to help small firms grow the economy," CFIB president Catherine Swift said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Canadian Federation of Independent Business president Catherine Swift.

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More money for whoever governs

Government expecting to collect $19.1 billion more in revenues over the next five years than it thought

Whichever party winds up governing in Ottawa for the remainder of 2011 will still find something to like about Jim Flaherty's likely DOA budget.

With the opposition parties all vowing to defeat Flaherty's sixth budget and trigger an election, the likelihood is that none of the measures tabled in Parliament yesterday afternoon will see the light of day.

What survives, however, is the bottom line — the federal government of whatever stripe will have more money to spend or to squirrel away for a rainy day than was the case last year, or even a few months ago. The finance minister mainly chose the latter course yesterday — strewing a light sprinkle of new programs worth a mere $2.3 billion — but another finance minister and prime minister have the flexibility to take in another direction. The minister all but said as much at a news conference delivered under media lock-up just three hours before he knew the opposition reaction.

With a new review of government spending expected to find $4 billion in savings, the minister said he may be able to balance the budget in 2014-15, a year before his official goal, or have cash for other priorities.

"That could happen," he said. "(The review) will give us room to pay down public debt and ... it will give us an opportunity for more tax reductions. That's where the flexibility can come from going forward."

The latest accounting from the Finance Department shows the fiscal cupboard is not nearly as bare as was the case a year ago, or possibly not even as Flaherty maintains now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revelation

- **Lost output** As the budget shows, Canada may never recover the $100 billion in lost output from the recession.
- **Analyst** projections show that five years out, the economy will still be $105 billion smaller than it would have been had the slump not occurred.

die with budget

more in some areas under Flaherty's document.

Changes in the way partnerships work that previously allowed for the deferral of corporate tax was expected to yield $470 million for the government in 2012-13 and increase to $850 million in 2013-14.

"Sound fiscal policy requires that we protect the integrity of the tax system," the minister said.

Proposed changes in the rules governing the way dividends are paid between corporations were expected to bring in $75 million in the 2011-12 fiscal year and increase to $95 million in 2012-13.

The government would also have increased taxes on companies building oilsands projects in a move that would have brought the rules in line with the rates charged on conventional oil and gas projects.

The government expected to gain $15 million in its 2011-12 fiscal year from the change, forecast to grow to $30 million in 2012-13.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Machinery

- **Write off** The planned budget also extended a program that allowed companies to write off the cost of new equipment and machinery in just two years, faster than normally allowed.
- **Green energy** The government expanded the list of eligible equipment to include green-energy power equipment.

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A SIMPLE TWIST OF FATE FOR ASSANGE

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

It's funny how life works.

For many of us, the idea of "destiny" is quaint, old-fashioned, from a time when the gods could not resist meddling in the lives of individuals.

Now, science has taught us that instead of being pre-destined by the Fates, stuff just happens. The universe is a cold, random place, and we're just lucky (or unlucky, depending on your point of view) bits of organized carbon.

But if that's the case, what's with Julian Assange and Scandinavia?

Consider the facts. Assange is the founder of WikiLeaks and has upset the global apple cart by leaking scads of U.S. State Department memos setting off scandals in virtually every world capital.

The lineup of leaders who would cheerfully strangle Assange forms over there on the left, but for some strange reason, his next destination appears to be Sweden, where he faces murky sexual assault charges. "Murky" because there appears to be a strong possibility that the sex in question was consensual and Assange may be the victim of his own personality, as in he's a cad.

"Now, science has taught us that instead of being pre-destined by the Fates, stuff just happens."

Assange is, of course, Australian, which is nowhere near Sweden. And his beef is with the U.S. State Department, which usually has little or nothing to do with Sweden.

Meanwhile, he's holed up in the U.K., trying not to be extradited to Sweden, mainly because he's afraid Sweden will hand him over to the U.S.

Complicated.

While he's in the U.K. awaiting the appeal of the Swedish extradition order, he has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. If he wins that, to accept his prize, he will have to go to … Scandinavia! Oslo, Norway, to be precise, which is right next door to Sweden.

So, in a strange twist of what can only be called fate, Assange could either be incarcerated in Scandinavia as the lowest of the low, a sex criminal, or exalted in Scandinavia as the highest of the high, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, alongside Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela.

Either this guy was a salmon in a previous life and is somehow pining for the fjords of his fingerling days, or his ridiculously fascinating life has prompted the gods out of retirement and they have arranged a good old-fashioned Norse saga to rival Beowulf.

After all, Assange is a little like Beowulf, but instead of Grendel, he has the U.S. government by the tail. Don't know about you, but I'd rather take my chances with Grendel.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Playing the Trump card

Worth mentioning

There's the blowhard billionaire. The "good ole boy" from the Deep South. The ever-maligned former Alaska governor. Another onetime governor whose action-movie-esque promotional ad has spurred guffaws, not respect. And a onetime congressional guiding light whose adulterous past still haunts him.

The Republican race for the 2012 presidential nomination hasn't officially begun yet, but if all the wannabe commanders-in-chief considering taking on U.S. President Barack Obama do throw their hats in the ring, the battle for the White House could be the most entertaining in years.

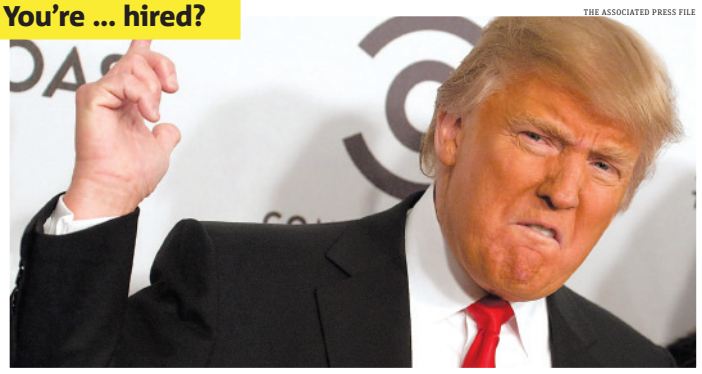
A recent poll by the Wall Street Journal and NBC suggests Donald Trump — yes, Donald Trump — has a higher approval rating than two of his would-be rivals, Mitt Romney and Tim Pawlenty. Trump, the star of The Apprentice, is pondering a run.

If he does decide to run, Trump could face challengers that rival him in the fame department, including Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor who recently told Israel to "stop apologizing" so much, and Newt Gingrich, the onetime speaker of the House of Representatives who hounded former president Bill Clinton about his affair with a White House intern while he himself was involved in an adulterous romance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

You're … hired?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



Are U.S. politics more entertaining than Canadian politics? Why?

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Metro Minute at Sweaty Betty's

Back in day, before iPods, satellite radio, and MP3 players put every song in the universe at our fingertips, the only way we could really exercise musical choice came from a funny-shaped box with lots of flashing lights and vinyl.

Jukeboxes may have become a retro novelty, but they're also symbolic of a time when life was simpler, and we had 25 options instead of 25 billion.

Ossington Avenue gem Sweaty Betty's brings you back to basics with its swinging CD jukebox, a centrepiece in the popular indie watering hole.

Just be sure you also try to reconnect with your patience (another anachronistic phenomenon) as weekends may cause a lineup around the dials.

JORDANA DIVON

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▶ The jukebox at Sweaty Betty's (13 Ossington Ave.) symbolizes a time when life was simpler.

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Can Canada produce another Shania Twain?

Even if a country star has made it big in Canada, it means nothing in highly competitive Nashville

Deric Ruttan still remembers exactly where he was the first time he heard Shania Twain on the radio in Nashville.

It was 1994, and a then-22-year-old Ruttan had just moved to the country-music hotbed in pursuit of a music career. He was driving his burgundy '87 Dodge Omni hatchback down historic Old Hickory Boulevard when a familiar voice strained through his car radio, singing Any Man of Mine.

"I was like: 'Oh, Shania, cool!'" said Ruttan in a telephone interview.

In the 17 ensuing years, Ruttan has remained in Nashville and forged a successful career as a country singer/songwriter who finally earned his first Juno nomination for country album of the year at this Sunday's awards gala in Toronto (CTV, 8 p.m. ET).

The show will also mark the 45-year-old Twain's induction into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, an honour that seems like something of a no-brainer to her peers given her achievements: more than 75 million albums sold worldwide, 12 Junos, five Grammys, 16 top 10 hits and multi-platinum album sales in 32 countries.

But, of course, Twain hasn't released an album of new music since 2002, and while country music continues to flourish in Canada, no Canuck artist has managed to claim even a fraction of Twain's Stateside success.

While several of this year's countrified Juno nominees have carved out successful careers in Nashville, the question remains: What will it take for Canada to produce another country star who shines like Shania?

"I think, probably, a beautiful mid-section," cracked Johnny Reid, who's up for four Junos at this weekend's show. "I gotta tell you, I don't think anybody knows the secret." Still, while Reid's right that there might not be a recipe for Canucks looking to find international stardom, a few of his peers have zeroed in on some of the ingredients.

Dean Brody, a Smithers, B.C., product who is up for country album of the year for his sophomore effort, Trail in Life, had a hit on U.S. country radio with his first-ever single, Brothers. At the time, he lived in Nashville — and while he's since relocated to Nova Scotia, he says a Tennessee address is essential for Canuck country singers hopeful for U.S. attention.

"I think the biggest thing, the toughest things for Canadians ... is to make it in the biggest market, you have to be able to live there," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Shania Twain is being inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame.

2 scene

Walk of Fame

Bryan Adams is now enshrined in concrete.

The Canadian singer, songwriter, guitarist, bassist and producer got his Hollywood Walk of Fame star Monday in front of the Musicians Institute.

Adams recalled visiting Hollywood Boulevard at 16 and marveling at the stars. He said he was humbled by seeing his own star.

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Ralph Macchio on top, Mike Catherwood finishes last as Dancing begins its 12th season

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Canada's 'green conscience' turns 75

- Now David Suzuki feels freer than ever to speak his mind
- His CBC show The Nature of Things also celebrates 50 years

THE CANADIAN PRESS/TIM KROCHAK

▶ David Suzuki says Canadians are much better informed than Americans about environmental issues.

The impending arrival of a milestone birthday has put David Suzuki in a reflective mood.

And for the host of The Nature of Things, who made his name as a geneticist before heading into broadcasting, there's no point in sugar-coating it.

"I'm in the death zone," Suzuki said late last year when discussing his 75th birthday, which arrives Thursday.

"I'm in the last part of my life and I think as an elder now it's an important responsibility to reflect back on a life and say, 'What the hell have I learned in 74 years? Are there things I'd like to leave as a legacy for other coming generations to think about?' That's what I've been thinking about a lot."

One thing is certain — age has done nothing to ease the resolve of Canada's green conscience.

If anything, Suzuki says he has a greater responsibility to speak out on his environmental convictions, noting he now feels "free" to be as outspoken as he pleases.

"During the big battles we had with the forestry industry, for example, people said, 'Aren't you worried that someone might beat you up?' And I wasn't worried about that so much as worried about my children," says Suzuki, who recalls a bullet being shot through his window in the '80s, and being run off the road in a logging town when a truck driver recognized who he was.

"If they shoot me, what the hell? I'm at the end of my life anyway, and that's a very powerful position to be."
DAVID SUZUKI

"Nobody can accuse me of wanting celebrity or money or power. I'm at the end of my life and I can speak the truth and it comes from my heart."

The pledge comes as Suzuki's longtime series, The Nature of Things, marks its own milestone with a 50th anniversary special, also on Thursday.

Suzuki has helmed the science magazine for 31 years, infusing the program with an impassioned yet breezy approach that has made the Vancouver-born educator one of the country's most popular TV personalities.

Meanwhile, the show itself came of age as the emerging public broadcaster found its own footing on the dial, evolving from a black-and-white, half-hour series to an hour-long current affairs show that brought Canadians images from remote places around the globe.

Its willingness to tackle a broad array of medical, social, political and environmental issues brought numerous awards and audiences in 80 countries. Suzuki boasts that it was among the first mainstream programs to discuss climate change, AIDS and nuclear power.

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TV picks

Family first

COMEDY. On Modern Family, Jay tries to avoid going to a symphony concert with Gloria and Manny and winds up joining Mitchell, Cameron and their friends for a night out. Meanwhile, Claire and Phil are worried when Luke befriends their cantankerous neighbour. (Citytv, ABC)

Drama on the runway

REALITY. Ways to inject drama on America's Next Top Model include making the girls invent their own TV ad, pose with wild animals, or cross the "Oh-no-she-didn't" line. Tonight we have all three as the contestants write, direct and perform a commercial and head to the zoo for a fashion shoot. (A Channel) THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Priscilla' opens on Broadway

Mixed reviews for show that was a hit in Toronto Praise for Canadian C. David Johnson

SUBMITTED

C. David Johnson, right, was also in the Toronto production.

Toronto actor C. David Johnson was among the bright spots in mixed reviews for the Broadway opening of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, the Musical.

Johnson plays Bob, a mechanic who befriends three drag queens, in the flashy show that made its North American debut here last fall before it opened in New York on Sunday night.

Bloomberg News wrote: "Hats off too to C. David Johnson as lovable Bob, the man of Bernadette's dreams."

Variety reported that "C. David Johnson offers low-key support as a gentle fellow who befriends the trio."

The Chicago Tribune called him "genial."

And NewJerseyNewsroom.com said: "A bearded C. David Johnson is a lovable lug as the mechanic who goes along for the ride."

Adapted from the 1994 Oscar-winning film of the same name, the glittery musical stars Tony Sheldon, Will Swenson and Nick Adams as drag queens who ride across the Australian outback in a beat-up bus.

The soundtrack includes the dance-floor classics Go West and It's Raining Men, and the producing team includes stage and screen star Bette Midler.

The musical has been a hit in Australia, New Zealand, London and Toronto, but reviews from the star-studded U.S. opening at the Palace Theater were varied Monday morning.

The New York Times, for instance, said the "hyperactively splashy show wants so desperately to give audiences a gaudy good time that the results are oddly enervating."

The New York Daily News said the production "would be a drag without the costumes," and Entertainment Weekly said it had a "nylon-thin plot" and is "campier than a tentful of Boy Scouts."

Still, most critics seemed to feel that the show offers a good time.

The New York Post, Variety and Chicago Tribune were among those who said it also had a lot of heart.

The show marks the Broadway debut for Johnson, a stage and screen veteran who starred on TV's Street Legal.

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▶ Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules opens in theatres this Friday.

Wimpy Kid returns to the screen

Kinley strikes a chord with kids in popular book series and new movie Rodrick Rules follows youngster dealing with preteen life

STEVE GOW
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The creative mind behind the Diary of a Wimpy Kid book series and its two Hollywood movies (the latest of which, Rodrick Rules, opens this Friday) is pretty clear on why his work strikes chords with kids.

"It's the humour," said Jeff Kinney, Wimpy Kid author and executive producer of the films. "I'm not writing down to kids; my books aren't didactic. I'm trying to entertain kids and I think that's the way it should be."

With 47 million copies of the books in print in 37 languages (in Germany, it's titled I'm Surrounded By Idiots), Kinney has definitely tapped into the charms of readers with his lazy lead character Greg Heffley — a self-absorbed youngster that must deal with the tribulations of preteen life and, in Rodrick Rules specifically, his badgering older brother.

"Greg isn't a bad kid — he's just a flawed kid … and most of the humour in the books comes from his imperfections," said Kinney. "The most interesting aspect is that movies speak in the language of emotion and my books don't. But when you see these movies you really come to care about the characters and their relationships; I think it's sort of a different expression of telling the same sorts of stories."

Like the books, the latest cinematic version also explores a few autobiographical details from Kinney's own childhood — even if they've been updated.

"Greg (and his friend) Rowley try to become Internet sensations (by imitating pop singer Ke$ha) so that certainly didn't happen to me as a kid," said Kinney. "We thought we were going to be big famous Dungeons & Dragons monster creators."

Starting out

- **How Jeff Kinney discovered Wimpy Kid:** "I started writing a diary when I was in my 20s, actually. It was because I was playing a lot of video games each night and I wasn't working on my cartoons so I decided to shame myself … so that's how Diary of a Wimpy Kid came to be."

Hot Docs steps it up a notch

Morgan Spurlock's product placement doc, POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold, is opening this year's Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival.

Spurlock, who earned an Oscar nomination for his 2004 fast-food exposé Super Size Me, says the 90-minute feature was financed entirely by product placement, marketing and advertising.

He leads a documentary slate featuring several high-profile titles and festival award-winners.

They include films about late-night talk show host Conan O'Brien, hip hop pioneers A Tribe Called Quest, Broadway legend Carol Channing, and Cher offspring Chaz Bono.

Executive director Chris McDonald calls this year "something of a game-changer for Hot Docs," noting it features a third more films this year.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Morgan Spurlock

Hot Docs will screen more than 200 documentaries from 43 countries from April 28 to May 8 in Toronto.

"We are expanding the number of film presentations by one-third, we are screening in new neighbourhoods across the city and we will be providing more direct financial support to filmmakers," said McDonald.

"The doc-making marketplace has changed dramatically, and so has our role within it. We are not just screening great work, we are helping to finance and distribute films in a meaningful way."

Official selections were drawn from 2,146 submissions. The Canadian Spectrum includes Eco Pirate: The Story of Paul Watson, about the Greenpeace co-founder; Grinders, about the world of professional poker; and The Guantanamo Trap, which follows four lives changed by the U.S. detention camp.

"Every year we start with the goal of showing everything documentary can do," says director of programming Sean Farnel.

"Yet, more so than ever, what documentary is doing is re-inventing itself, expanding our notions of its capacity to communicate contemporary stories and ideas. So let's call 2011 the year that docs broke wide open."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hot Doc picks

- **The Hollywood Complex,** about the spring migration of thousands of child actors who flock to Hollywood for TV's pilot season.
- **The Bully Project,** which spends a year on the front lines of the U.S. bullying epidemic.
- **You've Been Trumped,** a David-meets-Goliath tale of Donald Trump versus "the bonniest village" in Scotland.

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REVIVING THE WIP GENRE

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
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Recently, a poll found that more than one in five British cinema-goers preferred comedy to any other film style.

Action/adventure films placed second with romantic comedies rounding out the top three. That trio of genres eats up most of the space at movie theatres, but there are hundreds of other kinds of films.

This weekend Sucker Punch opens in theatres, a women-in-prison film directed by 300 helmer Zach Snyder, reviving a genre thought to have gone the way of nunsploitation and Pauly Shore movies.

Of all the sub-sub genres, the women-in-prison (WIP) movie has to be one of the least appreciated... at least in recent years.

There was a time when these stories of women in lock-up, at the mercy of cruel prison guards, proudly took up screens in drive-ins and second run houses.

With names like Caged Heat and Barbed Wire Dolls, these movies, along with kung fu and blaxploitation flicks, kept many a grindhouse in business.

WIP films have been around since the 1930s but didn't become popular until the 1950s when cautionary tales like Agnes Moorehead's Caged and Ida Lupino's Women's Prison mixed and matched hardened criminals with sadistic guards.

It wasn't until Spanish exploitation filmmaker Jess Franco hit upon the misogynistic recipe of mixing babes, bars and bondage, however, that the subgenre was born.

His first WIP movie, 99 Women, sparked a revolution in sexploitation films.

One of the early stars to emerge from the WIP heyday was Pam Grier. Starring in The Big Bird Cage and The Big Doll House — "Their bodies were caged, but not their desires. They would do anything for a man. Or to him." — Grier became, as Quentin Tarantino called her, "the first female action star."

No WIP exploitation film ever won an Academy Award, but at least one of their filmmakers did. Oscar winner Jonathan Demme is known as the man behind Silence of the Lambs and Philadelphia, but buried deep down on his resume is his big screen debut, Caged Heat.

"Jonathan took that assignment," remembers producer Roger Corman, "and said, 'This is gonna be the best one ever made.' Jonathan took the genre, worked with it, and made something exceptionally good."

Fighting the fight

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Director Zack Snyder

Zack Snyder, director of Watchmen and the new Sucker Punch, takes on the studio system with the first film based on his own original idea

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With Sucker Punch, visually inventive director Zack Snyder (300, Watchmen) presents his first film based on his own original idea — and original is putting it lightly.

The film follows a group of girls trapped in an insane asylum who use their imaginations to escape their dark reality, transporting themselves to fiery, bullet-ridden battlefields where they dispatch enemies with stunt-filled fury.

But Snyder admits it wasn't easy to bring his vision to the screen. He spoke to Metro about his influences, not going 3-D and fights with the studio.

You make original movies. Do you ever get much interference from the studio?
Oh yeah. That's the danger. They have preconceived ideas about what a good movie is or what you should be doing, and I think that in the end you really just have to be true to yourself. I feel like this movie pushes the envelope in all of its facets. You know, it's a female cast, it's got a complicated structure that's difficult. It has a dark ending that's not necessarily what they would've hoped for. Trust me, they did not like the ending. You just have to fight the fight.

How does having your wife, Deborah Snyder, as your producing partner help?
Those exact fights are the fights that she has every day to make sure the movie stays the movie I want to make. She really fights that fight.

You made Sucker Punch while also completing Legends of the Guardians. How did the two differ?
I wish Rango had come out before Guardians because when you see Rango you realize that they didn't give a s— about the kids at all and they just made a cool movie. We had that potential, I think, with Guardians, but everyone just said, "No, no, no, you can't do that. You've got to make a children's film." And so I got into a big fight with the studio because I just wanted to make an adventure movie with owls in it. But they were like, "No, no. You've got to soften it so that parents don't freak out." But I had a great experience with it. It was a good film.

Was there talk about making Sucker Punch 3-D?
This Korean company that was going to do it for Sucker Punch did a conversion of a five-minute sequence of 300 that was amazing, and I was like, "Wow. If they can do that level, maybe we can do something cool." But to do it over the course of a whole movie is just not that easy. It's a bigger deal than the studios realize. And I think that the field is going to be leveled soon by cost versus return. Because nobody knows. Right now the studios are just spending millions and millions of dollars to make a 3-D movie.

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John, Mirren to host SNL

Saturday Night Live has lined up Elton John and Helen Mirren for hosting duties on back-to-back shows in April.

The network announced Tuesday that John will pull double duty on April 2. He'll host and share the stage with fellow musical guest Leon Russell. It's his first return to the show in nearly three decades.

On April 9, the Oscar-winning Mirren will make her SNL debut, with musical guest the Foo Fighters.

Saturday Night Live airs on Saturdays at 11:30 p.m. Eastern time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chris Brown trashes dressing room

Reacts after interview questions about Rihanna

Chris Brown trashed his dressing room at Good Morning America and broke a window with a chair Tuesday after co-host Robin Roberts asked him about his attack on Rihanna, according to a person familiar with the show.

The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Security was called, but not police.

Brown was on the CBS morning show Tuesday to promote his new album, F.A.M.E., released the same day. During his interview with Roberts, she asked him about the 2009 attack on his then-girlfriend.

"It was very serious what you went through and what happened," she said. "How have you been able to ..."

A clearly agitated Brown tried to deflect the line of questioning, saying he was past that and wanted to focus on his new CD.

"This album is what I want them to talk about and not what happened two years ago," he said.

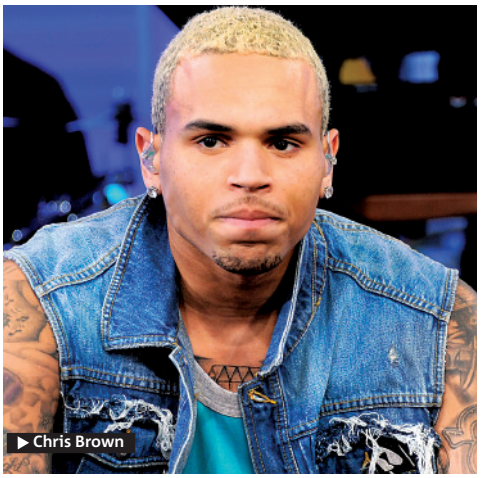
Roberts laughed and thanked Brown for letting her discuss that matter with him, and after the interview, Brown performed.

But instead of performing another song for the online audience, as he was scheduled to do, he went to his dressing room and started smashing things, according to the person.

In a statement, ABC News said: "As always, we ask questions that are relevant and newsworthy, and that's what we did in this interview with Mr. Brown."

Reps for Brown did not immediately return phone calls for comment. Brown is on probation for his assault on Rihanna.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


Chris Brown

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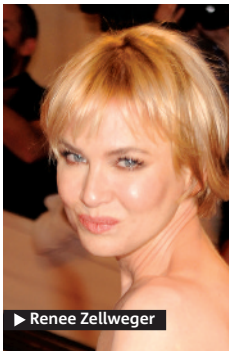
Renee got tired of waiting for a ring?

Friends say that's the reason she broke up with Bradley Cooper

Renee Zellweger and Bradley Cooper's two-year romance may have come to an end because Zellweger got tired of waiting for an engagement ring, sources tell Popeater.

"We all thought for sure they were going to be together forever after they moved in together last fall," a friend of Zellweger says. "But after that she wanted a ring, and he just wasn't ready to propose." Both have been married before, though, and neither ended well. "Renee was ready to give it another try with Bradley," the friend says. "She's 41 and has an Oscar. She's starting to think about children and settling down." METRO


▶ Renee Zellweger

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Bradley Cooper

Lohan's mom: 'My children don't steal'

▶ Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan is due in court Friday to enter a plea in her latest court battle, this one over a $2,500 necklace she allegedly stole — and her mom, Dina Lohan, says Lindsay may plead no contest.

"Obviously she's not pleading guilty. My children don't steal things. But the system is so strange out in Los Angeles. We're considering a couple of options and just want to get this over with in the shortest amount of time," Dina tells the New York Daily News.

But Dina insists, no matter what the plea, her daughter is innocent. "She was clearly loaned the necklace," she says. "And it should already be down to a misdemeanor because the necklace wasn't worth anywhere near what they claimed." METRO

Is Sean Penn seeing Scarlett?

Sean Penn's rumored romance with Scarlett Johansson appears to be heating up, as the couple were spotted out again, this time at a dinner with friends in West Hollywood, according to People magazine. "They were smiles all night and seemed to have a great time together. Scarlett and Sean sat very closely and exchanged flirty looks," a source says. "Scarlett acted very intrigued by him. She would smile, nod her head and just listen to his stories." METRO

Scarlett Johansson

Talking points

Sheen may be back: Exec

PEOPLE. Charlie Sheen's departure from Two and a Half Men will be a temporary one, at least if Les Moonves has anything to say about it.

The top CBS executive is reportedly heading up negotiations to get the high-profile star back on the show, according to Radar Online.

"Moonves wants to get the show back on the air. He's all for it," a source says.

"He says certain people need to forget anything and everything Charlie's done recently and just move on with the business at hand." METRO

Pregnant Posh ponders what to wear

ROYAL WEDDING. Everyone is gearing up for Prince William's big wedding to Kate Middleton next month, but the event reportedly has Victoria Beckham on edge, according to her husband, David Beckham.

So what's causing her all the anxiety? It's what to wear to the ceremony.

"Victoria is obviously a little bit worried because she'll be a few more months pregnant by then," David says, according to Hollyscoop. METRO

Lohan's dad arrested

LEGAL. Lindsay Lohan's father, Michael Lohan, has been arrested after his girlfriend filed a report accusing him of domestic violence, according to TMZ. The report also states the girlfriend had marks on her arm from an alleged altercation. Lohan was picked up by representatives from the L.A. Sheriff's office and taken into custody. His rep had yet to comment. METRO

Celebrity tweets

Ryan Seacrest [@Ryan Seacrest] who saw limitless?? Insanely good movie. Had to add Bradley Cooper into my bromantic circle of ~~guys~~

Frankie Muniz [@frankie muniz] I just read that Ricki Lake may be coming back with a new talk show in 2012... all I can say is HELL YEAH.

Joel McHale [@joel mchale] Me to my 3yr old son, "I love you." My 3yr old's response back to me, "Thank you".

Nathan Fillion [@Nathan Fillion] Where there's smoke, there's fire. (Unless you are using Fire-less Smoke.) METRO

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TROY FLEECE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A display inside the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina, Sask. Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and will welcome the world's top male curlers, as well as their fans, who will visit the city during the event, which takes place April 2 to 10.

Hurry hard to curling worlds in Regina

Organizers expect a loud crowd at the men's world curling championship in Saskatchewan ◗ Go support Canada's team skipped by Jeff Stoughton

Saskatchewan is about to be swept away by curling and is ready to welcome those who want to ride the broom.

Regina will host the 2011 world men's curling championship next month and is expecting thousands of fans along with the world's top male curlers, their families, officials, coaches and media. Derek Boe, chairman of the local organizing committee, says curling fans traditionally have been a quiet crowd but that's changing.

"Kind of what we noticed happening, mostly at Olympics this year out in Vancouver, was that things got rocking and rolling pretty good and the curlers loved it," said Boe, president of Curl Regina. "It is becoming a bit more of a raucous crowd and more enthusiastic and more lively and spirited."

Boe also notes that curling is Saskatchewan's official sport. There's no better place for visitors to brush up on curling lore than the Saskatchewan Sports of Hall of Fame and Museum in Regina.

"You've got lots of big names from Saskatchewan curling and they're all represented with their team," says Sheila Kelly, the hall's executive director.

Among those honoured in the hall is Regina's Ernie Richardson — the only male curler in history to skip a team to four world titles.

There are medals and memorabilia from Sandra Schmirler. "Schmirler the Curler," as she was known, skipped her team to three Canadian titles, three world titles and a gold medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics. She died of cancer in 2000.

And then there's the Grand Transoceanic Match — a funspiel for spectators that started in the '70s as a way for curling fans to get to know each other on the ice.

"They're just amateurs that enjoy curling," said Boe. "They've just kind of established this tradition of going and attending the World Championships and said 'Jeez, wouldn't it be fun if while we were there we staged a little match.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go ...

- **Worlds.** The 2011 Ford World Men's Curling Championship will be held at Evraz Place. Ticket and draw schedule information can be found at curling.ca/championships/worlds.
- **Hall of Fame.** The Saskatchewan Sports of Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 2205 Victoria Ave. Admission is free. More information can be found at sshfm.com
- **Funspiel.** The Grand Transoceanic Match will be held April 8 at the Caledonian Curling Club, known locally as the Callie.

3 life

Travel in brief

Via Rail is adding two sites to its Garden Route for 2011: Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm and the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens in Nova Scotia.

Now in its sixth year, the Garden Route promotes major horticultural attractions across the country. There are a total of 19 gardens on the route, from Butchart Gardens near Victoria, B.C., to Halifax Public Gardens in Nova Scotia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tour of Shanghai's Jewish history tells story of WWII refugees, crowded ghetto

Wine and more in California

Healdburg offers plenty of options in between tastings at some of California's best wineries

The chic wine country town of Healdburg has a little secret. Fine wine is just the beginning of the attractions on tap here.

Poke around antique shops, eat at a Michelin-starred restaurant, float down a lazy river — and those are just some of your options.

Not that long ago, Healdburg was a sleepy spot known as "the buckle on the prune belt."

The prunes are long gone, replaced by vineyards. And these days, if you're doing any sleeping here, it may very well be on the Coyuchi organic sheets of the h2hotel, one of several new or newly refurbished boutique hotels that have sprung up in recent years.

"It's really come a long way," says iconic rock artist Stanley Mouse, whose work is featured in the Rockin Roses gallery just off the tree-lined plaza that is the heart of Healdsburg. "It used to be a really quiet town. Now it's the place to go."

About 115 kilometres north of San Francisco, Healdsburg is conveniently located just off U.S. Highway 101.

Spend the morning shopping the boutiques and antique stores that line the plaza or browse the thousands of titles at Copperfield's Books on the south side of the plaza.

Maybe you want to put a little polish on your own spatula? Relish Culinary Adventures offers cooking classes that range from bread-baking sessions to visiting a farmer's market with a chef and returning to the up-to-date kitchen to cook up the meal. The ingredients and the talent are local to give visitors a sense of Sonoma County. Prices range from US$39 for summer lunch classes to US$125 for off-site classes at local farms and wineries.

If you're feeling more nautically inclined, take a kayak out on the Russian River: inflatables are available that are stable enough to take a dog along. For a different take on relaxation, try a spa treatment: The Spa at the Healdsburg Hotel offers day packages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

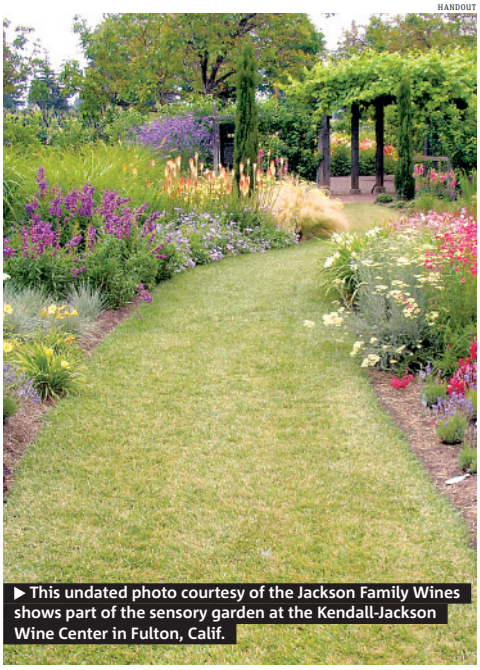
If you go ...

- **Rockin Roses.** 243B Healdsburg Ave., Healdsburg, rockinrosesart.com or 707-433-6400. Open Thursday-Sunday, 12:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
- **River's Edge Kayak & Canoe Trips.** 13840 Healdsburg Ave., riversedgekayakandcanoe.com or 707-433-7247.
- **Soar Inflatables.** 20 Healdsburg Ave., soar1.com/rradventures/welcome.htm or 707-433-5599. Rates start at US$40 for a half-day kayak rental.
- **Relish Culinary Adventures.** 14 Matheson St., relishculinary.com or 877-759-1004.

ERIC RISBURG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine at the Boisset Taste of Terroir wine tasting room in Healdsburg, Calif. Fine wine is just the beginning of the attractions you'll find here.

HANDOUT



▶ This undated photo courtesy of the Jackson Family Wines shows part of the sensory garden at the Kendall-Jackson Wine Center in Fulton, Calif.

Explore with all of your senses in Sonoma County

Imagine a garden where melons, peaches, apples, lemons, pears and gardenias bloom. Then imagine holding all that in a glass.

That's the theory behind wine sensory gardens, featuring plants commonly smelled and tasted in wine.

Take a stroll through the neatly laid out cabernet-merlot corner of the red wine garden at the Kendall-Jackson Wine Center in Sonoma County and you encounter things you expect to find, like black cherry and black currant. And there are a few you might not expect, like oregano and bell pepper, which also can be picked up in some reds. It's a wine and noses experience.

"We call this our scratch-and-sniff garden," says Matthew Lowe, a chef at Kendall-Jackson Wine Estates who has been involved with the gardens for a decade.

In each garden there are four quadrants representing different wines, and in the middle of the garden is a section of things that pair well with wines, for example sweet onions and sweet peppers with sauvignon blanc. The idea is to correlate the scent of a flower or tang of a berry with what you experience in the tasting room.

Frey Vineyards was a pioneer as a purely organic winery, and the family planted sensory gardens "because we are a bunch of gardeners who also happen to make wine," says Frey. "Gardening is our relaxation and hobby. And (it brings) beneficial insects into our vineyards, and so it helps with our natural control of pests."

At Round Pond Estate in the Napa Valley, sensory gardens are curated by Jeff Dawson, who came up with the idea some years ago after encountering the "Aroma Wheel" developed by Ann Noble, a University of California, Davis, professor. It identifies aromas in wine.

He helped get the gardens at Kendall-Jackson going, and six years ago moved to Round Pond, which has two gardens: sauvignon blanc and cabernet sauvignon — the two major varietals grown there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Websites

- Kendall-Jackson Wine Center, kj.com
- Frey Vineyards, freywine.com
- Round Pond Estate, roundpond.com

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A whole lotta L.A. ...

Sasha Perl Raver, an L.A. local and celebrity chef on the Food Network's Private Chefs of Beverly Hills, knows exactly where the cool kids dine and hang out If you don't catch her cycling along Venice Beach or drinking strawberry cocktails, she's probably hiking the Hollywood Hills or taking part in a free yoga class in Griffith Park

SASHA PERL-RAVER
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is in the middle of an amazing cultural renaissance. It's a bit like San Francisco and New York combined, with a mix of art, food and culture that isn't as shallow as its reputation.

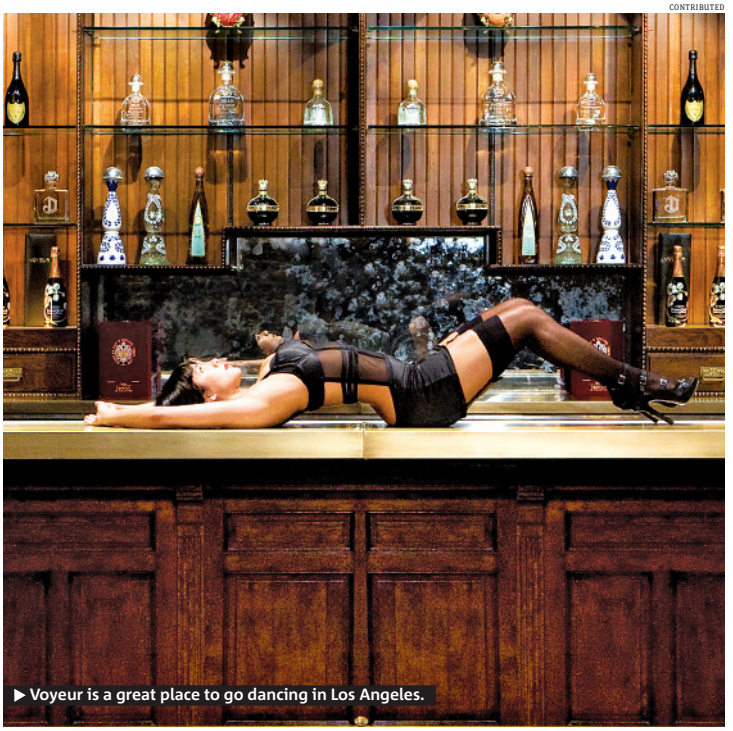
One of the things I love most about living in Los Angeles is that you can go to the beach in the middle of February, which makes everyone outside the city super jealous.

When the sun rises, it scrubs the sky and you can see both the ocean and the snow-capped mountains, which are only about 30 minutes away by car.

It really is an iconic and beautiful place.

For more information check discoverlosangeles.com

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Voyeur is a great place to go dancing in Los Angeles.

Go out

Las Perlas does incredible margaritas. They are almost like a meal and you can get very tipsy on just one. The bar staff here is super cute.

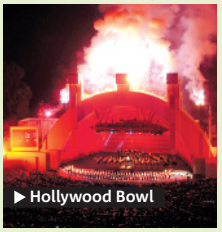
I love Voyeur for dancing. Some of the dancers are topless; others dangle from nets and some dance in glass boxes. It's not a strip club. The whole act is based on the 1930s.

The masks and top hats feel very Madonna circa her Express Yourself days.

First time?

Go to Santa Monica. It's touristy but so Baywatch it's awesome. Rent bikes and ride along the beach. Annenburg Beach House is a free beach resort where you can reserve a spot on the day and only pay a small parking fee. Have lunch at the Café at the Getty Villa. The best outdoor music venue is the Hollywood Bowl, where people bring food and wine and enjoy being under the stars. And if you have time, go to a Dodger's baseball game.

SASHA PERL RAVER



▶ Hollywood Bowl

Eat

Best fish taco in Ensenada is a tiny little fish taco stand — and you can only get fish ($1.50) and shrimp ($2) filling but it's like going to Mexico and back. Brunch is something that is taken very seriously in L.A. You can only have brunch or lunch at Square One, as it closes at three.

SASHA PERL RAVER

▶ Square One

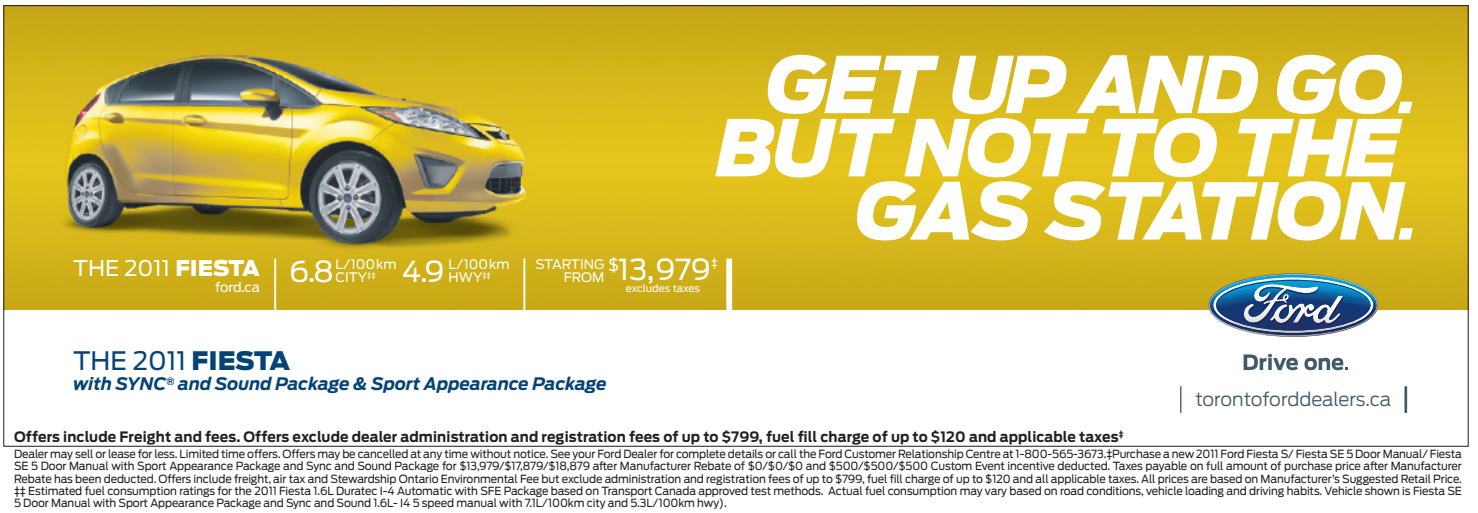
NIKOLAS KOENIG

▶ Chateau Marmont

Been there before?

Chateau Marmont is great, although it's more sceny than it used to be. It's now known for Lindsay Lohan but back in the day, this was where Greta Garbo lived and Jim Belushi died. Sit in the garden and order sticky toffee pudding and a pot of mint tea. It's got this incredible old-Hollywood glamour feel and you always see someone famous here, hence the strict no camera rule.

It's a running joke in L.A. but everyone goes to the "night club of exercise" the Runyon Canyon. It's a three-mile hike into one of the grand canyons and people treat it like the running runway. I would also go to Griffith Park, L.A.'s answer to Central Park, just way cheesier. They have free yoga classes three times a day and an amazing observatory where you can look through the telescope and see incredible views of L.A.



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DARREN PARKMAN

▶ Harrison Hot Springs, B.C., is a uniquely relaxing travel destination that is only 90 minutes away from Vancouver.

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THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

The phrase "best kept secret" may be a bit overused these days, but Harrison Hot Springs really is a hidden gem. Just a 90-minute drive east of Vancouver, you'll find some of the most spectacular mountain scenery serving as a backdrop for the sandy beaches of picturesque Harrison Lake.

Despite all this natural beauty, the real draw of this quaint little village is the world famous healing waters of the mystical hot springs themselves. Visitors flock here from all over the world to take advantage of the therapeutic waters that are said to restore good health, and promote energy and vitality.

After spending several hours submerged in the private pools at the swanky Harrison Hot Springs resort, I actually did feel a tad more rejuvenated, if also a bit shrivelled up. The high mineral content of the water seemed to energize me for my next adventure, and it turns out I needed that energy.

A leisurely fishing trip on Harrison Lake turned in a massive sturgeon. I'm talking 200 pounds massive. An hour and 15 minutes later, after using every ounce of my somewhat modest strength, I somehow managed to finally land this pre-historic giant. Myself, and my trusty fishing guide, barely managed to lift the six-foot long monster out of the water before quickly letting him go.

Sturgeons are protected under a catch-and-release program, so there's a pretty good chance of catching one. As we headed back to the resort as the sun was setting, bald eagles circled overhead as a mother black bear did some fishing of her own on a nearby sandbar. Hard to believe all this is here to behold, and just a stone's throw from Vancouver. Well worth a weekend getaway for city folks.

Other sites

- **Visit the Copper Room restaurant.** Old school dining and dancing are the name of the game at this historic eatery inside the Harrison Hot Springs resort. If you ever wondered what supper clubs used to look like in the '40s and '50s, wonder no more.
- **Hike nearby Bridal Falls.** Take a spectacular hike to the sixth highest falls in Canada. The water drops 400 feet to the valley floor. There is ample camping nearby.

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Greek cuisine keeps it simple

There's a lot more to Greek food than souvlaki, musaka and tzatziki
Take a trip to the south of Athens to taste incredible fish dishes, or to the north to sample a T-bone steak

ZOE KOSKINIDOU
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN GREECE

EUROKINISSI

▶ The Greek islands offer fabulous seafood.

The key element of Greek cuisine is simplicity. If you look through old cookbooks, you will find that most recipes are based on just a few ingredients: a protein, some oil, some herbs and perhaps yoghurt. The best dishes feature Mediterranean flavours without being too heavy, overbearing or needlessly complex. We took a tour of the best.

If you want to sample the pillars of Greek cuisine, Athens is a good place to start. You'll want to try souvlaki, and the best place to go is Thanassis at Monastiraki Square. This restaurant is always packed, so take a seat outside where you can enjoy one of their skewers of extra juicy meat dipped in fresh and cool tzatziki sauce and rolled in a crispy bread pie with tomato and onions.

The kebab there is also a must. Those dishes, along with the famous layered musaka or slow-cooked lamb kleftiko, are classics and delicious, but if you go to Greece and only ate that, you would miss out on the essence of our food. Sometimes the most authentic dishes are found outside the big cities.

If you love fish, go to the southern and eastern suburbs of the capital. Take a trip to the port of Lavrio about 69 kilometres from Athens, where you'll find a welcoming restaurant called Syrtaki on Sounio Avenue. It's one of the most famous and popular fish taverns in the area and it follows the rules of simplicity. There's nothing fancy here, just delicious fresh fish, fresh seafood and fresh salads.

If you love meat, then head north from Athens to Penteli. The area, which is part of the Athens metropolitan area, is just a half an hour's drive from the city centre. Look out for Christos & Olimbia, an old family tavern located on the central square in Old Penteli. It comes highly recommended for its excellent T-bone steaks, pork chops, lamb and the reasonable prices.

For more information check out visitgreece.gr.

Quick tips

EAT

- Serious foodies should leave the centre of Athens and go to Mellissia, a half-hour drive from the city centre. There you will find Afthereto, a small house in the middle of a comb, which serves the most delicious mezedes and the hottest cheese-cream you have ever tried.

STAY

- For a place to stay in the centre of town, try Achilleas Hotel, a small, recently-renovated boutique hotel, located in the centre of Athens' nightlife and next to all the important landmarks. achilleashotel.gr

TRAVELLING

- Athens is a 24-hour city and you should not be afraid to walk around at any time of the day. However, there are some areas in Athens where you shouldn't walk alone at night. Stay away from Evripidou Street at Psyrri, Omonoia Square and Theatrou Square and away from poorly-lit streets.

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EVELYN HANNON
JOURNEYWOMAN.COM

I recently visited the Caribbean Island of Grenada to test its female-friendliness. It's such a lovely corner of the world and under the right circumstances it is alarmingly romantic.

I travelled there with a group of travel writers and decided to look at this little piece of paradise from two different angles — wedding and honeymoon destination, and a getaway for a single female looking for some rest, relaxation and fun in the sun.

I divided my time between the Spice Island Beach Resort, an elegant boutique hideaway and then went on to La Source, a first-class, all inclusive holiday experience. Each stay was three days.

The first at Spice Island was so romantic I contemplated marrying one of the other travel writers whom I had just met that morning.

The second spot, La Source, was so full of endless activity and new people to meet I gave my original wedding plan up as a bad idea.

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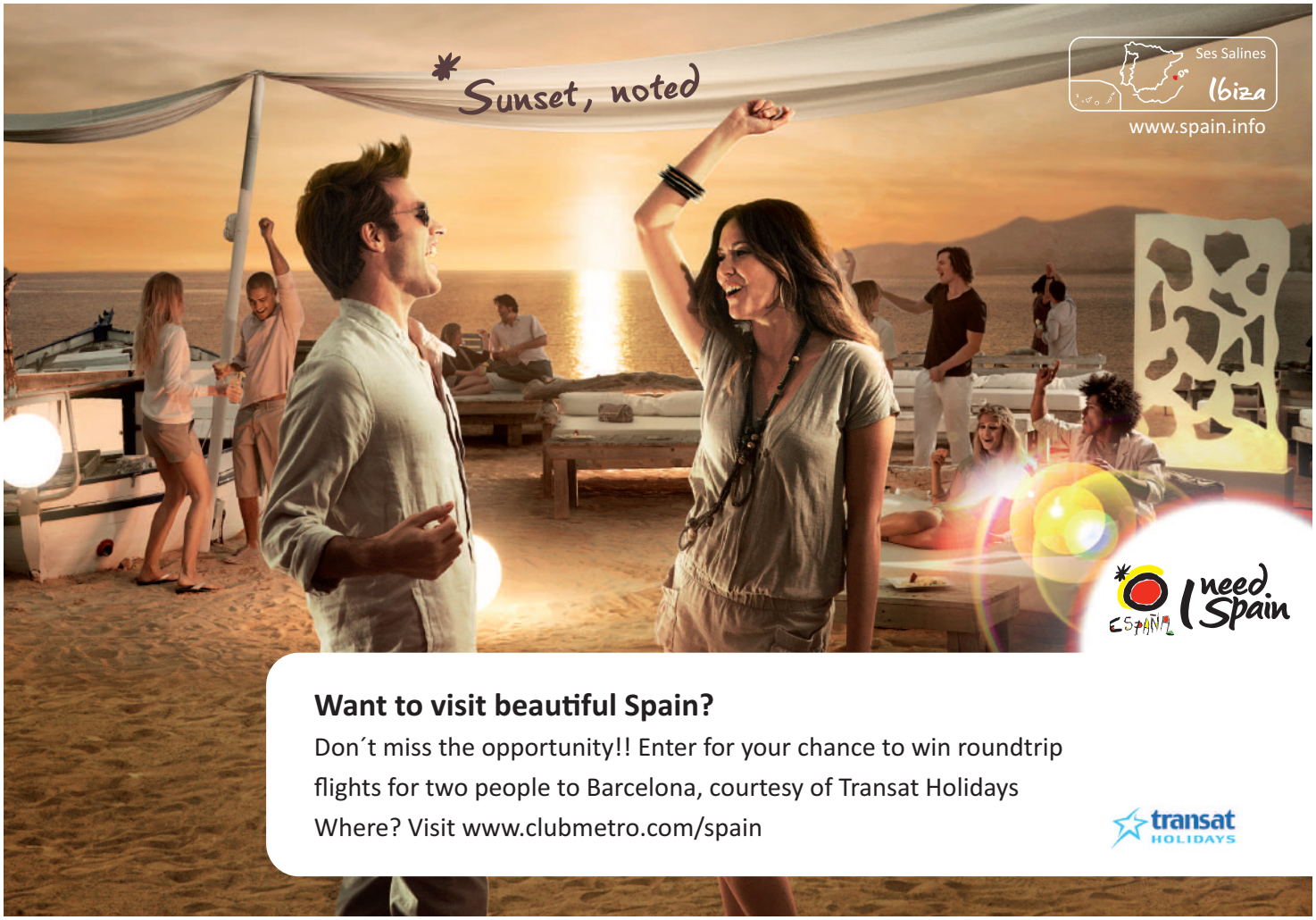
Pair of cruises hit N.B.

Two more cruise ship lines will be calling on the New Brunswick port city of Saint John this year. The stops this fall will be the first visits to the port by MSC Cruises and Oceania Cruises.

The announcement was made as representatives of the province, the Saint John Port Authority and industry are in Florida to attend Cruise Shipping Miami, the world's largest annual cruise trade show.

More than 70 ships are expected to dock in Saint John this year, bringing more than 200,000 passengers and close to 70,000 crew members.

The Port of Saint John estimates that more than $30 million was spent last year as a result of cruise ship traffic to the port. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Do you know the muffin woman?

Metro's food columnist, Emily Richards, shares two very different muffin recipes Serve one at breakfast and the other as a dinner side

THE CANADIAN PRESS HO/ CALIFORNIA ALMONDS

▶ You can omit lemon juice and milk and substitute with 1/4 cup (50 mL) buttermilk.

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

These scrumptious Double Almond and Chocloate Muffins are packed with essential nutrients to help jump-start your children's day.

Whip up a batch for breakfast or to tuck into lunch bags.

With a hint of banana flavour, they're are also perfect with a cup of tea.

Up the almond ante by spreading almond butter on half of a freshly baked muffin.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) lemon juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) low-fat or skim milk
- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) almond flour (ground almonds)
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 mL) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 egg whites
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) canola oil
- 1 egg
- 1 cup (250 mL) mashed banana (about 3 medium)
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) water
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) sliced almonds
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chocolate chips (optional)

Preparation:

1. In large bowl, combine lemon juice and milk; set aside.
2. In another bowl, whisk pastry and almond flour, baking powder and soda, salt and cinnamon; set aside.
3. Using electric mixer beat in sugar, egg whites, oil and whole egg to milk mixture; beat at high speed until well blended. Add banana, water and vanilla; beat at low speed until combined. With mixer on low speed, slowly add flour mixture to banana mixture until just combined.
4. Spray muffin tins with cooking spray and spoon batter into cups. Sprinkle almonds and chocolate chips, if using, over muffins. Bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for 20 minutes or until tester inserted comes out clean. Let muffins cool in pan for 10 minutes, then gently remove from pan and cool.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE ON EMILY, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA

EMILY RICHARDS

Broccoli and Cheddar Muffins

These savoury Roasted Broccoli and Cheddar Muffins are the perfect combination of broccoli and cheese.

Roasting the broccoli helps to keep its crisp texture while adding some golden colour.

The muffins are best enjoyed as a snack or as a new twist on the dinner table side dish.

Serve them warm out of the oven with a hint of butter spread.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (250 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) cornmeal
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) chili powder
- 1 cup (250 mL) milk
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter, melted or extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded Old Cheddar cheese

Roasted Broccoli

- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) small broccoli florets
- 2 tsp (10 mL) extra virgin olive oil
- Pinch each salt and pepper

Preparation:

1. **Roasted Broccoli**: In bowl, toss together broccoli florets with oil, salt and pepper. Spread onto small parchment paper lined baking sheet or pan. Roast in 400°F (200°C) oven for about 20 minutes or until golden and tender crisp. Let cool completely. Chop broccoli and set aside.
2. Meanwhile, whisk together flour, cornmeal, baking powder, baking soda, salt and chili powder.
3. In another bowl, whisk together milk, egg and butter. Pour over flour mixture and stir until just combined. Add cheese and roasted broccoli. Stir until distributed evenly.
4. Spoon batter among greased muffin tins and bake in 400°F (200°C) for about 15 minutes or until firm to the touch and light golden. Let cool in pan on cooling rack. Serve warm or room temperature.

EMILY RICHARDS

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Florentine shells stuffed with nutritious goodness

This pasta dish reduces the fat by using extra lean ground beef, light ricotta cheese, skim mozzarella and sodium-reduced pasta sauce

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ These florentine beef and cheese stuffed shells will satisfy even the pickiest eater.

Although this recipe may seem a bit fussy, it makes two pans, so you can bake one for the kids right away and refrigerate the other to bake for your date-night dinner while they watch their favourite movie.

Serve theirs with a glass of milk and some veggies with dip, and yours with a side salad of baby greens dressed with balsamic vinaigrette.

Preparation:

1. Cook pasta shells according to package directions. Drain and rinse; set aside. (Don't worry if some shells tear. You won't need them all).
2. Meanwhile, in a large deep frying pan over medium heat, cook beef, onion, garlic and Italian seasoning for 10 minutes or until beef is thoroughly cooked and liquid has evaporated.
3. Remove from heat. Stir in ricotta, spinach, 250 ml (1 cup) of the mozzarella and pepper; combine well. Spoon 30 ml (2 tbsp) into each of about 32 shells.
4. Spread 325 ml (1 1/3 cups) pasta sauce into each of a 3-l (13-by-9-inch) baking dish and a 23-cm (9-inch) glass pie plate. Place 20 filled shells in baking dish and 10 to 12 filled shells in pie plate. Top shells in baking dish with remaining pasta sauce (none needed for pie plate). Sprinkle Parmesan and remaining mozzarella over shells in both pans. (Can be covered and refrigerated or frozen.) Cover loosely with foil and bake in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for 5 minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ BEEFINFO.ORG

Ingredients:

- 1 box (340 g) jumbo pasta shells (approx 44 shells)
- 500 g (1 lb) lean or extra-lean ground beef sirloin
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 to 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 5 ml (1 tsp) dried Italian herb seasoning
- 1 pkg (454 g) light ricotta cheese
- 1 pkg (300 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed, squeezed dry
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) pepper
- 1 l (4 cups) fat- and sodium-reduced pasta sauce
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) grated light Parmesan-style cheese

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Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN

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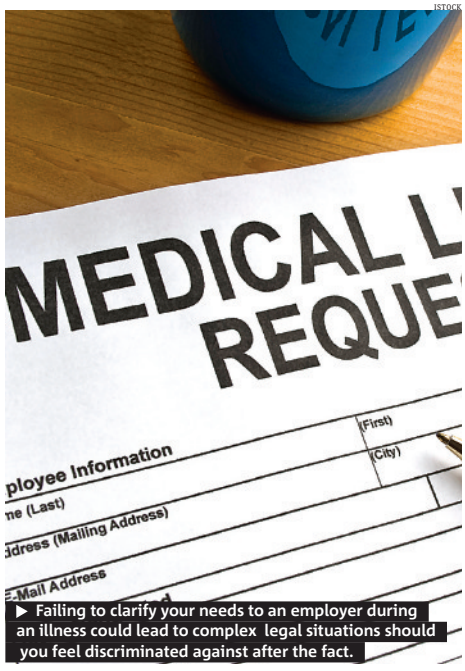

ISTOCK

▶ Failing to clarify your needs to an employer during an illness could lead to complex legal situations should you feel discriminated against after the fact.

Employees dismissed for underperformance never go quietly. Often they complain that the cards were stacked against them or that their employer's decision was somehow unfair. But what about an employee who claims he was fired because of discrimination?

Sean Carter tried this card at a recent human rights hearing and learned that proving discrimination is more difficult than he thought.

Carter, a program coordinator at a rehab clinic in Hamilton, Ontario, was injured in a car accident that led to time off from work.

When he returned, Carter felt that he was treated differently at work, claiming that he was disciplined more often and his views were dismissed.

Carter then suffered from stress and depression, which he said resulted from workload and family deaths. His performance deteriorated, and when the clinic tried to manage it, Carter left.

He wrote in cryptically that he was going to see his doctor "for some results" and would be off work for a few weeks. Five days later, he was fired.

Carter complained to the Human Rights Tribunal in Ontario, perhaps Canada's most employee-friendly administrative body.

However, instead of finding that Carter was fired for his disability, the Tribunal found that he did not even have one. This is because Carter failed to show that he even disclosed a medical condition or any medically-related needs to his employer.

Therefore, the Tribunal wrote, Carter's employer had no obligation to accommodate him and his termination was unrelated to his request for medical leave.

Not every claim for sick leave leads to a "disability" that must be accommodated.

Too many employers accept cryptic doctor's notes without scrutiny and too many employees fail to properly clarify their medical needs.

Most of the time, both employers and employees are just ignorant of the law.

Taking time off

If you are sick at work or employ someone who is, consider these steps:

- Provide or request written medical authentication of an illness from a treating physician and ensure that the report is comprehensive.
- Meet and discuss accommodation. Employees don't need to disclose their condition, just the fact they have one and need assistance from their employer to remain productive.
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He's got an eye for gaming

Optometrists weigh in on gaming for kids younger than six years old
Experts argue consoles could flag hard-to-diagnose eye issues

SHUJI KAJIYAMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Vision specialists say the Number 1 health issue associated with console use and computer gaming is obesity, rather than eye problems.

U.S. eye specialists are welcoming the Nintendo 3DS game device, dismissing the manufacturer's warnings that its 3-D screen shouldn't be used by children six or younger because it may harm their immature vision.

However many optometrists disagree. Some say it's a good idea to get your kids to try the 3-D screen, especially if they're younger than six. It won't do any harm, they say, and it could help catch vision disorders that have to be caught early to be fixed.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under six who need vision therapy," said Michael Duenas, associate director for health sciences and policy for the American Optometric Association.

The new handheld game device is already available in Japan and goes on sale in the U.S. on March 27 for $250. It has two screens like the DS machines it is designed to replace.

The top screen can show 3-D images without the need for special glasses, though only new games will be in 3-D. A pair of cameras on the 3DS can be used to take 3-D pictures.

"The 3DS could be a godsend for identifying kids under six who need vision therapy."
MICHAEL DUENAS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

If your kid doesn't see the 3-D effect on the 3DS, that's a sign that he or she may have a vision disorder such as amblyopia, or "lazy eye," or subtler issues that can cause problems with reading, Duenas said. Kids who experience dizziness or discomfort should also be checked, he said.

Today's 3-D viewing systems send different images to the right and left eyes, a technique that creates an illusion of depth. But a lot of the cues we use to perceive depth in our environment are missing. That confuses the eyes and accounts for the eye strain and headaches many people experience watching 3-D movies. Because of that, optometrists say, these systems can help isolate problems that have to do with the way the eyes move, problems that aren't caught by eye charts.

These problems are much easier to fix if caught before age six, when the visual system in our brains is still developing. Only 15 per cent of preschool children get a comprehensive eye exam that could catch these subtle problems, according to the American Optometric Association, the professional group for optometrists. More than half of all juvenile delinquents have undiagnosed and untreated vision problems, according to studies.

Going to see a 3-D movie or trying a 3-D TV can also help screen for problems, but optometrists expect the 3DS to be in front of kids' eyes more.

"This has presented my profession, optometry, a wonderful opportunity," said Joe Ellis, the president of the optometrists' association.

However, optometrists aren't quite seeing eye to eye on this issue with another group of eye specialists: the ophthalmologists, who are medical doctors. (Optometrists are doctors of optometry but not medical doctors.)

David Hunter, a pediatric ophthalmologist affiliated with the Children's Hospital in Boston and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, said the idea that off-the-shelf 3-D games or movies could help screen for vision problems such as amblyopia is "a little perplexing."

Kids with amblyopia don't have much depth perception in real life, he said, so if they don't see depth in a 3-D screen, they might not say anything because that wouldn't be much different from what they see around them.

It's not impossible that it could help, but it's "all sort of exploration and speculation," said Hunter, who has started a company that's developing a device for childhood screening of vision disorders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The use of the Xbox Kinect could vastly improve the time a surgeon takes to perform an operation.

Doc, pass the Xbox

Toronto hospital is banking on video game technology to save time in the operating room

A team at Sunnybrook Hospital has started using the Xbox Kinect, a hands-free gaming console equipped with a motion sensor, to virtually manipulate key medical images during surgery.

The doctors use hand gestures to zoom in and out of the images or freeze a particular shot without leaving the operating table.

Surgeons typically have to leave the sterile field around the patient to pull up images such as MRI or CT scans on a nearby computer.

They then have to go through a meticulous cleanup before returning to the area to make sure they don't bring in any bacteria that could harm the patient.

It can take up to 20 minutes to clean up each time a doctor consults an image, said Dr. Calvin Law, who helped integrate the technology into the operating room.

Those interruptions sometimes cause more than an hour's delay over the course of a surgery, said Law, a surgical oncologist with the hospital's gastrointestinal cancer team.

"It all adds up," he said. By eliminating those delays, the hospital could save enough time to operate on more patients, he said.

What's more, it would help surgeons stay focused and decrease the risk of contamination by keeping everyone within the sterile field, he said. Surgeons can ask assistants outside the field to adjust images, but that's "always a little troublesome because of communication," Law said.

He compares the Kinect technology to a car's global positioning system, because it allows the user to get oriented without stopping.

With better control over the images, surgeons can be more precise, Law said.

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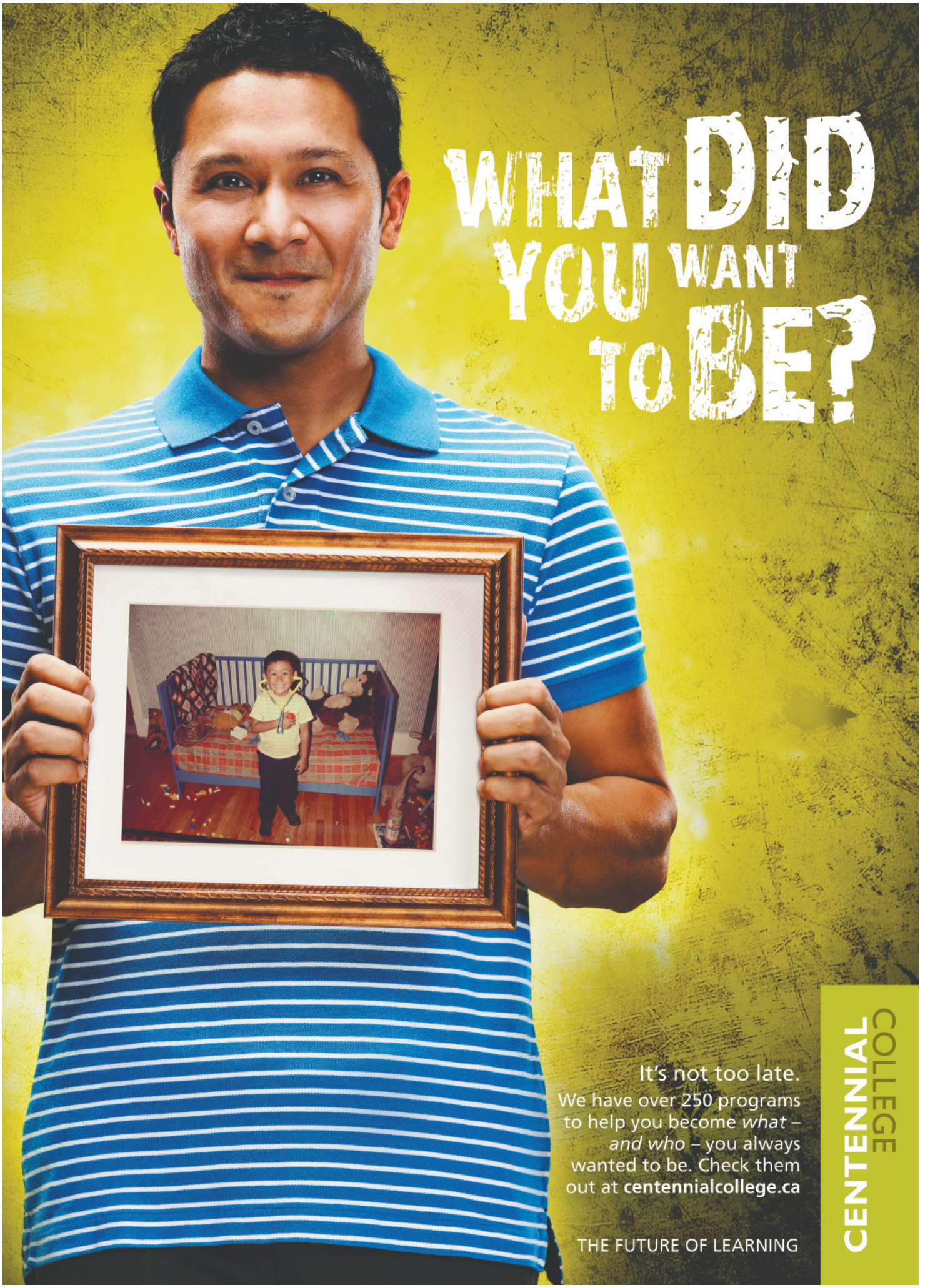
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Digital generation includes old souls

Young people taking a peek into musical past **Vinyl sales picking up as youth long for untampered sound**

NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Sarah McCarthy, right, and her boyfriend, Jack Carroll, rummage through records in Maryland.

In most ways, Sarah McCarthy is your average high schooler. She has a job, college plans, but also a peculiar passion for a 16-year-old: She's a vinyl junkie.

Sure, she has an IPod, but she also has a vinyl collection of 250 records and counting.

"Listening to old music remastered to a newer format is almost comical," Sarah said. "They weren't meant to be digitalized. Listening to Jimi Hendrix on my IPod doesn't capture his endlessly deep guitar solos quite like a 33 LP of Blues does."

This girl's in love with vinyl, and she's not the only member of Generation Digital with an ear for analogue.

The uptick in interest over several years includes nostalgic "nerdy superfans" looking for a way around the more sanitized sound of digital, like 14-year-old Nick Spates, a Los Angeles eighth grader who plays guitar and piano, but also savvy young people with Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and a host of obscure post-punk music on their minds.

While the recording industry dukes it out over downloads and mourns the CD, 2.5 million vinyl LPs were sold in 2009, up 33 per cent from the year before. Vinyl sales are a blip among total revenue from U.S. music sales and licensing, but that's a healthy increase in its own right.

"Young people are leading the way back to analogue through vinyl and turntables," said Matt Melvin, a 22-year-old college senior in Orlando, Fla.

"I think young people are demanding a product that is more tangible, the thrill of hunting through a store for that perfect record, the simple satisfaction of turning that record over." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bonds' lawyer comes out swinging

With prosecutors saying Barry Bonds lied about using steroids, the home run king's lead attorney started picking at the government's case yesterday in San Francisco, attacking witnesses expected to accuse Bonds of wilfully taking drugs to make him hit the ball harder and farther.

Defence lawyer Allen Ruby, his rich voice sometimes inflected with sarcasm, said in his opening statement that a former Bonds girlfriend, a former business partner and a former personal shopper came forward against his client only after the baseball star broke off relationships with them.

He also insisted Bonds testified truthfully before a grand jury in December 2003 when he said he did not know he was using a pair of designer steroids. Bonds claims his trainer told him he was taking "flaxseed oil" and "arthritic cream."

"I know it doesn't make a great story. Barry Bonds went to the grand jury and told the truth and did his best," Ruby said.

"That's not a made-for-TV story."

On a day when federal agent Jeff Novitzky became the first witness to testify, saying Bonds' grand jury account differed with other facts in the case, the contrast in stories and legal teams could not have been greater.

While Ruby, a high-priced, high-profile defence lawyer, spoke in a booming baritone and painted Bonds as a victim over the course of an hour, assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew A. Parrella gave his 46-minute statement in a workmanlike monotone that had some jurors struggling to keep their heads up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ James Reimer makes the second period save as Eric Nystrom of the Minnesota Wild looks for the rebound.

Reimer gets third shutout

Rookie goaltender makes 29 saves as Leafs stay even with Sabres and Hurricanes in playoff chase ◐ Reimer is 7-0-1 in last eight road games

	3	0
	TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	
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Rookie goaltender James Reimer made 29 saves for his third career shutout last night as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat Minnesota 3-0, stretching the Wild's winless streak to seven games.

Reimer won his third straight start, improving to 7-0-1 in his last eight road games and helping Toronto keep pace in the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

Joffrey Lupul and Mikhail Grabovski each scored goals to get Toronto's top two lines going.

The 10th-place Maple Leafs, the NHL's second-youngest team, are a long shot with eight games to go and eighth-place Buffalo still five points ahead. But they passed last year's points total and raised their record after the all-star break to 14-6-5, a sign of progress for general manager Brian Burke's group.

Carl Gunnarsson added a goal early in the third period to delight the thousands of blue-and-white-clad Maple Leaf fans who came down from Canada to catch just the fifth trip Toronto has made to Minnesota in the Wild's 10-year existence.

Grabovski's line — including Nikolai Kulemin and Clarke MacArthur — and Lupul's line — with Tyler Bozak and Phil Kessel — have been quiet lately. In Toronto's previous four games, the top six forwards contributed only two goals combined.

Just 99 seconds into the game, Lupul charged up the left wing and let a shot fly from the left circle that eluded Wild goalie Niklas Backstrom with defenceman Brent Burns late to cover. The roar from the Leafs fans in the crowd was as loud as a cheer for the home team, a deflating start for a Wild squad coming off the franchise's worst defeat ever — 8-1 to Montreal on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Raptors preview

Raptors at Suns, 10 p.m.
TV: TSN
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This is the third game of a five-game road trip for Toronto (20-50). The Raptors are 1-1 on their current swing after a 123-90 loss in Denver Monday.

A tough stretch for Phoenix (35-33 entering last night's action). The Suns come in having to play the back-to-back after facing the L.A. Lakers last night. Victoria's Steve Nash is second in the NBA in assists, averaging more than 11 per game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAP ROOM WORTH HANGING ON TO

Opinion

ADAM PROTEAU
THE HOCKEY NEWS

With the Maple Leafs still technically in the hunt for a playoff spot, the last thing their fans want to think of is next season. But one or two losses in their final handful of games will put the focus squarely on the 2011-12 campaign.

As we have noted previously, the infusion of young Leafs with bright futures — most notably, defencemen Luke Schenn and Dion Phaneuf, forwards Phil Kessel and Mikhail Grabovski and goalie James Reimer — means the franchise won't have to make wholesale changes yet again to its lineup.

That said, there will be a real temptation, as there always is in Toronto, for GM Brian Burke to spend all of the Leafs' soon-to-be-available salary cap space. According to CapGeek.com, the team will have some $22.5 million in space — a number that gives it as much roster flexibility as virtually any of the NHL's other organizations.

Some of that space must be used on new contracts for Toronto's eight restricted free agents (including Schenn, Reimer, Tyler Bozak and Clarke MacArthur). But that leaves Burke a good chunk of change to go shopping via the free agent scene and/or trade market.

Everyone's sights will focus on unrestricted free agent centre Brad Richards, but for many reasons, the Dallas star forward likely isn't destined for Toronto. Another possibility will be Phoenix goalie Ilya Bryzgalov, one of the NHL's dominant netminders whose presence could allow Reimer to develop his game without much pressure.

Beyond that, though, the free agent market is mighty shallow. Teams that tie up valuable cap room just for the sake of being able to brag they spend to the maximum allowable limit are doing themselves and their fans no favours.

Look at the San Jose Sharks, consistently one of the NHL's most competitive franchises who never are in the habit of spending to the cap limit. Their patience allowed them to trade for star centre Joe Thornton when an opportunity arose.

That's the plan Burke and the Buds ought to follow. Patience on the ice and on the financial ledger will eventually provide more options than they will have this summer.

Jays. Defeat

▶ Edwin Encarnacion loses the ball trying to throw out the Phillies' Ben Francisco.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phillies edge Blue Jays

Cliff Lee tossed six effective innings and Raul Ibanez hit a three-run homer yesterday as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-4 in spring training action. Lee gave up two runs and four hits, including Rajai Davis' leadoff triple in the first inning and Juan Rivera's homer in the third.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-Philadelphia	72	44	19	4	5	232	195	97	21-10-2-3	23-9-2-2	4-3-1-2	L1
d-Washington	74	43	21	5	5	203	180	96	22-8-2-5	21-13-3-0	9-1-0-0	W2
d-Boston	72	40	22	5	5	217	176	90	17-12-3-2	23-10-2-3	4-4-2-0	W1
Pittsburgh	73	42	23	5	3	213	181	92	22-13-2-0	20-10-3-3	6-2-2-0	W1
Tampa Bay	73	39	23	5	6	216	222	89	22-10-1-4	17-13-4-2	2-4-2-2	L3
Montreal	74	40	27	4	3	200	187	87	22-10-3-3	18-17-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Rangers	74	40	30	2	2	216	179	84	18-17-1-2	22-13-1-0	7-3-0-0	W5
Buffalo	73	36	28	8	1	216	208	81	16-16-3-1	20-12-5-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Carolina	73	34	29	5	5	205	217	78	20-12-2-2	14-17-3-3	5-4-1-0	W2
Toronto	74	33	31	5	5	195	225	76	17-14-3-4	16-17-2-1	5-4-1-0	W2
Atlanta	72	30	30	5	7	202	237	72	15-14-2-5	15-16-3-2	5-4-1-0	L1
New Jersey	73	34	35	3	1	155	186	72	17-15-2-1	17-20-0-1	6-4-0-0	L1
NY Islanders	74	29	33	7	5	208	234	70	16-15-1-4	13-18-6-1	6-1-2-1	W2
Florida	73	29	34	5	5	182	199	68	15-15-5-4	14-19-0-1	3-4-2-1	L2
Ottawa	73	27	37	5	4	167	227	63	13-19-2-3	14-18-3-1	6-4-0-0	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
y-Vancouver	73	47	17	4	5	238	172	103	25-8-1-4	22-9-3-1	8-2-0-0	L1
d-Detroit	73	43	21	5	4	237	209	95	19-11-3-3	24-10-2-1	4-3-2-1	L2
d-San Jose	73	42	23	4	4	211	191	92	20-11-2-3	22-12-2-1	5-3-0-2	W3
Phoenix	74	39	24	7	4	213	207	89	17-12-4-2	22-12-3-2	6-3-1-0	L1
Los Angeles	73	41	26	4	2	199	177	88	21-12-3-0	20-14-1-2	6-2-2-0	W1
Nashville	74	39	25	6	4	193	174	88	20-8-4-3	19-18-1-1	7-2-1-0	W4
Chicago	72	39	25	3	5	234	203	86	22-14-0-0	17-11-4-4	6-2-1-1	W1
Anaheim	72	40	27	3	2	204	208	85	23-12-1-1	17-15-2-1	8-2-0-0	W3
Dallas	72	38	25	3	6	203	202	85	20-11-2-5	18-14-1-1	5-2-2-1	L1
Calgary	75	37	27	4	7	227	216	85	22-12-1-3	15-15-3-4	4-4-1-1	L2
Minnesota	74	35	31	3	5	185	207	78	17-15-2-3	18-16-1-2	2-6-2-0	L7
Columbus	72	33	29	4	6	195	218	76	16-16-1-3	17-13-3-3	2-5-1-2	L1
St. Louis	72	32	31	4	5	201	214	73	20-12-1-3	12-19-3-2	4-6-0-0	L2
Colorado	71	27	36	7	1	198	250	62	14-17-4-0	13-19-3-1	1-8-0-1	W1
Edmonton	73	23	40	2	8	176	240	56	12-20-1-4	11-20-2-3	3-5-1-1	L7

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division title; d — division leaders; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL or SOL columns.

Last night's results
Toronto 3 Minnesota 0
Nashville 3 Edmonton 1
Carolina 4 Ottawa 3
Buffalo 2 Montreal 0
N.Y. Rangers 1 Florida 0
Boston 4 New Jersey 1
Washington 5 Philadelphia 4 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 5 Tampa Bay 2
Columbus at Colorado
St. Louis at Phoenix
Monday's results
Pittsburgh 5 Detroit 4 (OT)
Los Angeles 2 Calgary 1 (SO)
Tonight's games

All times Eastern
Vancouver at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Calgary at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Tonight's games
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Columbus at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, WILD 0

First Period
1. Toronto, Lupul 10 (Bozak, Kessel) 1:39
Penalties — Nystrom Min (goaltender interference) 4:01, Cullen Min (boarding) 12:21, Brent Tor (interference) 13:06, Bouchard Min (tripping) 18:20.
Second Period
2. Toronto, Grabovski 28 (MacArthur, Kulemin) 11:20
Penalties — Gunnarsson Tor (tripping) 1:12, Brunette Min (hooking) 2:07, Stoner Min (cross-checking) 4:04, Schenn Tor (hooking) 7:04, Kadri Tor (tripping) 13:18.
Third Period
3. Toronto, Gunnarsson 4 (Grabovski, Kulemin) 2:13 (pp)
Penalties — Koivu Min (high-sticking) 1:35, Aulie Tor (interference) 7:06, Grabovski Tor (slashing), Zanon Min (roughing) 15:39, Aulie Tor (high-sticking) 17:14, Lashoff Tor (cross-checking) 19:21.
Shots

Toronto	8	3	6	—17
Minnesota	7	11	11	—29

Goal — Toronto: Reimer (W,16-7-4); Minnesota: Backstrom (L,21-20-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Toronto: 1-6; Minnesota: 0-7.
Referees — Brad Meier, Dean Morton. **Linesmen** — Brian Mach, Darren Gibbs.
Att. — 18,761 (18,064) at St. Paul, Minn.

PREDATORS 3, OILERS 1

First Period
1. Nashville, Erat 15 (Ward, Legwand) 4:08
2. Nashville, Hornqvist 19 (Kostitsyn, Suter) 7:40 (pp)
Penalty — Foster Edm (tripping) 7:06.
Second Period
3. Nashville, Legwand 14 (Suter, Weber) 7:00
4. Edmonton, Eberle 17 (Cogliano, Vandermeer) 9:38 (pp)
Penalties — Kostitsyn Nash (tripping) 8:45, Franson Nash (interference) 11:49.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Peckham Edm (tripping) 4:39, O'Marra Edm (hooking) 10:53, Fisher Nash (tripping) 15:15.
Shots

Edmonton	5	7	8	—20
Nashville	15	5	10	—30

Goal — Edmonton: Dubnyk (L,10-12-7); Nashville: Rinne (W,28-20-8). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 1-3; Nashville: 1-3.
Referees — Stephane Auger, Eric Furlatt.
Linesmen — Mark Wheler, Brad Kovachik.
Att. — 15,745 (17,113) at Nashville.

HURRICANES 4, SENATORS 3

First Period
1. Ottawa, Greening 3 (Spezza, Butler) 7:56
2. Ottawa, Svatos 2 (Condra, Hale) 13:40
3. Carolina, Ruutu 18 (Jokinen, Skinner) 14:07
4. Carolina, LaRose 14 (Pitkanen) 14:32
Penalties — Karlsson Ott (interference) 3:02, Stillman Car (goaltender interference) 3:58, Corvo Car (hooking) 18:32, Kuba Ott (interference) 18:51, Pitkanen Car (roughing) 19:54.
Second Period
5. Carolina, LaRose 15 (Bra.Sutter, Gleason) 18:17
Penalties — Z.Smith Ott (tripping) 5:33, Neil Ott (roughing) 8:33, Allen Car (tripping) 13:36.
Third Period
6. Carolina, Stillman 10 (E.Staal, Cole) 6:04
7. Ottawa, Karlsson 13 (Spezza, Foligno) 14:16
Penalties — None.
Shots

Ottawa	11	18	10	—39
Carolina	7	11	6	—24

Goal — Ottawa: McElhinney (L,9-11-1); Carolina: Ward (W,31-24-9). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 0-4; Carolina: 0-3.
Referees — Ghislain Hebert, Kelly Sutherland.
Linesmen — Andy McElman, Scott Cherrey.
Att. — 16,189 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C.

SABRES 2, CANADIENS 0

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Boyes Buf (tripping) 5:10, Gill Mtl (tripping) 7:50, Subban Mtl (interference) 11:53.
Second Period
1. Buffalo, Gerbe 12 (Myers, Sekera) 8:56
Penalties — Mara Mtl (cross-checking) 2:09, Vanek Buf (goaltender interference) 3:13, Picard Mtl (tripping) 5:00.
Third Period
2. Buffalo, Gerbe 13, 19:38 (en)
Penalty — Wisniewski Mtl (hooking) 7:53.
Shots

Buffalo	9	10	5	—24
Montreal	12	10	9	—31

Goal — Buffalo: Miller (W,31-21-8); Montreal: Price (L,34-25-6). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Buffalo: 0-5; Montreal: 0-2.
Referees — Marc Joanette, Wes McCauley.
Linesmen — Steve Barton, Michel Cormier.
Att. — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
D.Sedin, Vcr	38	55	93
Stamkos, TB	43	43	86
H.Sedin, Vcr	18	68	86
St. Louis, TB	26	59	85
Perry, Ana	39	40	79
Ovechkin, Wash	29	48	77
Zetterberg, Det	21	52	73
Toews, Chi	30	42	72
Kopitar, LA	25	47	72
Iginla, Cal	33	38	71
Sharp, Chi	34	34	68
B.Richards, Dal	25	42	67
Selanne, Ana	22	45	67
Crosby, Pgh	32	34	66
C.Giroux, Pha	23	43	66
Nash, Clb	31	34	65
Kesler, Vcr	36	28	64
E.Staal, Car	29	35	64
P.Kane, Chi	24	39	63
Eriksson, Dal	23	40	63
J.Carter, Pha	33	29	62

Last night's games not included

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
D.C. United	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Kansas City	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
New York	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Chicago	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
New England	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Toronto	1	0	1	0	2	4	0
Columbus	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
Houston	1	0	1	0	0	1	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Los Angeles	2	1	0	1	2	1	4
Vancouver	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Colorado	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Real Salt Lake	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Dallas	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Chivas USA	1	0	1	0	2	3	0
Portland	1	0	1	0	1	3	0
San Jose	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Seattle	2	0	2	0	0	2	0

Note: 3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.
Friday's game
All times Eastern
Houston at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Portland at Toronto, 2 p.m.
New York at Columbus, 4 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago, 4 p.m.
Vancouver at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
D.C. United at New England, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Philadelphia 5, Toronto 4
Tampa Bay 7 Boston 4
Baltimore 6, N.Y. Yankees 2
N.Y. Mets 7, Detroit 4
Oakland 10 Cincinnati 8
Seattle 9 Chicago White Sox 5
Washington 3, Houston 1
Florida 3, Minnesota 0
Milwaukee 7 San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 2 Chicago Cubs 1 (10 inn.)
Cleveland 7 Arizona 3
L.A. Angels vs. Kansas City
Today's games
All times Eastern
NYM vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Phila. vs. T.B. at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Houston vs. Pitt. at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Florida vs. Atl. at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. Chi. Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Arizona vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. S.D. at Peoria, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
K.C. vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
LAD vs. CWS at Glendale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
San Fran. vs. LAA at Tempe, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Balt. vs. Minn. at Fort Myers, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. NYY at Tampa, Fla., 7:05 p.m.
Seattle vs. Colo. at Scottsdale, Ariz., 9:40 p.m.

CURLING

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At Esbjerg, Denmark

Country (skip)	W	L
Sweden (Norberg)	6	1
Switzerland (Ott)	5	2
Canada (Holland)	**4**	**3**
China (B.Wang)	4	3
Denmark (Nielsen)	4	3
Russia (Privivkova)	4	3
Germany (A.Schopp)	3	4
Norway (Githmark)	3	4
Scotland (Sloan)	3	4
U.S. (Lank)	3	4
Czech Rep. (Kubekova)	2	5
South Korea (Kim)	1	6

Yesterday's results
Ninth Draw
Canada 7 Czech Republic 4
China 8 Scotland 2
Germany 7 Norway 3
Sweden 8 Denmark 3
Draw 10
Denmark 8 Norway 3
Sweden 7 Germany 5
Switzerland 9 Russia 7
U.S. 8 South Korea 6
Draw 11
Canada 9 U.S. 6
Russia 8 Scotland 6
South Korea 11 Czech Republic 2
Switzerland 7 China 6 (extra end).
Today's games
Draw 12
Russia vs. Germany; Sweden vs. Switzerland; Denmark vs. South Korea; Norway vs. U.S.
Draw 13
South Korea vs. Scotland; China vs. U.S.; Russia vs. Czech Republic; Switzerland vs. **Canada.**
Draw 14
Sweden vs. **Canada**; Germany vs. Czech Rep.; China vs. Norway; Denmark vs. Scotland.

GOLF

PGA FEDEX CUP LEADERS

Through March 20

Points Money	YTD	
1. Mark Wilson	1,086	$2,268,825
2. Nick Watney	960	$2,278,000
3. Gary Woodland	945	$1,850,064
4. Rory Sabbatini	820	$1,573,194
5. Jhonattan Vegas	791	$1,479,510
6. Bubba Watson	763	$1,667,417
7. D.A. Points	737	$1,538,207
8. Luke Donald	718	$1,807,800
9. Jonathan Byrd	705	$1,404,148
87. Stephen Ames	**142**	**$254,243**

TENNIS

WTA SONY ERICSSON OPEN

At Key Biscayne, Fla.
Women's Singles — First Round
Melanie Oudin, U.S., def. Julia Goerges, Germany, 7-5, 6-3.
Iveta Benesova, Czech Republic, def. Roberta Vinci, Italy, 7-5, 6-4.
Elena Baltacha, Britain, def. Sybille Bammer, Austria, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Zheng Jie, China, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3.
Patty Schnyder, Switzerland, def. Madison Keys, U.S., 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Kristina Barrois, Germany, 7-5, 6-2.
Simona Halep, Romania, def. Urszula Radwanska, Poland, 6-3, 6-2.
Johanna Larsson, Sweden, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Ayumi Morita, Japan, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 7-5, 6-2.
Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.
Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Melinda Czink, Hungary, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

All times Eastern
Regional Semifinals
EAST REGION
Friday's games
North Carolina (28-7) vs. Marquette (22-14), 7 p.m.
Ohio State (34-2) vs. Kentucky (27-8), 9:30 p.m.
SOUTHEAST REGION
Tomorrow's games
Florida (28-7) vs. BYU (32-4), 7:15 pm
Butler (25-9) vs. Wisconsin (25-8), 9:55 pm
SOUTHWEST REGION
Friday's games
Kansas (34-2) vs. Richmond (29-7), 7:15 pm
Florida State (23-10) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (26-11), 9:55 p.m.
WEST REGION
Tomorrow's games
San Diego State (34-2) vs. Connecticut (28-9), 7 p.m.
Duke (32-4) vs. Arizona (29-7), 9:30 pm

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	11	9	2	.818	132	101	—
Buffalo	10	7	3	.700	110	93	1½
Boston	11	6	5	.545	117	102	3
Rochester	10	5	5	.500	93	107	3½
Philadelphia	11	4	7	.364	99	125	5

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Calgary	11	8	3	.727	140	123	—
Minnesota	9	5	4	.556	102	98	2
Washington	11	5	6	.455	146	135	3
Edmonton	11	2	9	.182	117	147	6
Colorado	9	1	8	.111	80	105	6

x — clinched playoff berth.
WEEK 12
Friday's games
All times Eastern
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Boston at Washington, 11 p.m.
Saturday's games
Philadelphia at Rochester, 7:35 p.m.
Boston at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Sunday's game
Buffalo at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Chicago	51	19	.729	—
y-Boston	50	19	.725	½
x-Miami	48	22	.686	3
x-Orlando	45	26	.634	6½
Atlanta	40	31	.563	11½
Philadelphia	36	34	.514	15
New York	35	35	.500	16
Indiana	31	40	.437	20½
Milwaukee	28	41	.406	22½
Charlotte	28	41	.406	22½
Detroit	25	45	.357	26
New Jersey	22	47	.319	28½
Toronto	20	50	.286	31
Washington	17	51	.250	33
Cleveland	13	56	.188	37½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	57	13	.814	—
y-L.A. Lakers	50	20	.714	7
x-Dallas	49	21	.700	8
d-Oklahoma City	45	24	.652	11½
Denver	42	29	.592	15½
Portland	40	30	.571	17
New Orleans	40	31	.563	17½
Memphis	39	32	.549	18½
Houston	37	34	.521	20½
Phoenix	35	33	.515	21
Utah	36	35	.507	21½
Golden State	30	41	.423	27½
L.A. Clippers	27	44	.380	30½
Sacramento	17	52	.246	39½
Minnesota	17	54	.239	40½

d – division leader; **x** — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

Last night's results
Chicago 114 Atlanta 81
Washington at Portland
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers
Monday's results
Denver 123 Toronto 90
Orlando 97, Cleveland 86
Indiana 102, New Jersey 98
Boston 96 New York 86
Chicago 132 Sacramento 92
Memphis 103 Utah 85
San Antonio 111 Golden State 96
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Miami at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

CRICKET

WORLD CUP

QUARTER-FINALS
Today's match
At Dhaka, Bangladesh
Pakistan vs. West Indies
Tomorrow's match
At Ahmadabad, India
India vs. Australia
Friday's match
At Dhaka, Bangladesh
South Africa vs. New Zealand
Saturday's match
At Colombo, Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka vs. England

CYCLING

VOLTA OF CATALUNYA

At Banyoles, Spain
Second stage
1. Alessandro Petacchi, Ita., Lampre, 4 hr 11 min 8 sec; 2. Jose Joaquin Rojas, Spn., Movistar, same time; 3. Manuel Cardoso, Por., Radioshack, s.t.; 4. Samuel Dumoulin, Fra., Cofidis, s.t.; 5. Aitor Galdos, Spn., Caja Rural, s.t.; 6. Giacomo Nizzolo, Ita., Leopard Trek, s.t.

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WELL EQUIPPED WITH: Air • Auto • 10 Standard Airbags • Remote Keyless Entry System • Power Windows & Locks • XM Satellite Radio™ • CD Player with MP3 Playback • And More

INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI, FEES, & $1,000 ACCESSORIES CASH ALTERNATIVE**

0% Smart Purchase FINANCING WITH OPTION TO RETURN AFTER 36 MONTHS♦♦

TOP SAFETY PICK 2011

2011 MALIBU LS

PURCHASE PRICE
$22,495* INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI, FEES, $2,000 CASH CREDIT* & $1,000 ACCESSORIES CASH ALTERNATIVE**

LTZ MODEL††

HWY: 5.9 L/100 km — 48 mpg
CITY: 9.4 L/100 km — 30 mpg♦

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

JUST ANNOUNCED

20¢ Off PER LITRE

UP TO 5000 LITRES OF GAS[1]

OR $1,000 UPTO IN OPTIONS & ACCESSORIES**

PLUS UPTO $7,500 CASH CREDITS* ON SILVERADO 1500 CREW & EXT.

TOP SAFETY PICK 2011

2011 EQUINOX LS

PURCHASE PRICE
$25,995* FINANCING **1.9%** FOR 48 MONTHS‡

OR VARIABLE RATE FINANCING
$159 BI-WEEKLY AT **3.0%** FOR 84 MONTHS‡
$0 DOWN PAYMENT. TAXES NOT INCLUDED.

INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI, FEES & $1,000 ACCESSORIES CASH ALTERNATIVE**

LTZ MODEL††

HWY: 8.1 L/100 km — 46 mpg
CITY: 9.2 L/100 km — 31 mpg♦

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

2011 TRAVERSE LS

$29,995 FREIGHT & PDI $1,450
FEES $144

$31,589* PURCHASE PRICE

FINANCING **1.9%** FOR 48 MONTHS‡

INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI, FEES, $3,200 CASH CREDIT* & $1,000 ACCESSORIES CASH ALTERNATIVE**

NEW LOW PRICE

HWY: 8.4 L/100 km — 34 mpg
CITY: 12.7 L/100 km — 22 mpg♦

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

RECYCLE YOUR 1995 OR OLDER VEHICLE AND RECEIVE UP TO $2,300** IN ADDITIONAL CASH INCENTIVES.

CA$H FOR CLUNKERS IN COLLABORATION WITH RETIRE YOUR RIDE, FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

Retire Your Ride Canada's Vehicle Recycling Program

Summerhill IMPACT

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GM Canada — THE BEST COVERAGE IN CANADA 5 YEARS / 160,000 KM • POWERTRAIN COMPONENT LIMITED WARRANTY • ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE • COURTESY TRANSPORTATION

The GM Card Redemption allowance ranges from $700 – $2,000

VEHICLE PRICING IS NOW EASIER TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE FREIGHT, PDI AND MANDATORY GOVERNMENT LEVIES. Prices do not include applicable taxes and PPSA. Consumers may be required to pay up to $799 for Dealer fees.***

CA$H FOR LEASES | GET $1000 TO GET OUT OF YOUR CURRENT LEASE (ALL MAKES) AND INTO A NEW GM VEHICLE*

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CHEVROLET

GM

For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♦$7,500/$2,000/$3,200 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit available on 2011 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. &Crew Cab/2011 Chevrolet Malibu/2011 Chevrolet Traverse (tax exclusive) for retail customers only reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits available on most models. ♦♦Offer: applies to most new or demonstrator 2011 GM vehicles, excluding PDJ Trucks and Camaro Convertible, delivered between February 1, 2011 and May 2, 2011 at participating dealers in Canada. Dealer order or trade may be required. †retail customers will receive up to $1,000 (tax exclusive) Chevrolet Cruze LS+ 1SB is eligible for $1,000; all other Cruze models and Chevrolet Aveo are eligible for $500, to be used towards the purchase of genuine GM Accessories and Options. Installation not included. ‡Offer applies to the purchase of 2011 Chevrolet Cruze LS+ 1SB, Equinox LS FWD RTA/Traverse LS FWD RTA/Malibu LS RTC/Equinox LS FWD RTA/Traverse LS FWD RTA, GMC by TD Bank. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 1.9% APR, monthly payment is $216.52 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is $384.96. Total obligation is $10,382.96. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. ‡Variable rate financing for 84 months on 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD RTA on approved credit. Bi-weekly payment and variable rate shown based on current TD Bank prime rate and is subject to fluctuation; actual payment amounts will vary with rate fluctuations. Example: $10,000 at 3% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $132.13. Cost of borrowing is $1,098.92. Total obligation is $11,098.92. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. ‡‡Offer applies to the purchase of 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS RTC/Equinox LS FWD RTA/Traverse LS FWD RTA, GMC by TD Bank. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 1.9% APR, monthly payment is $216.52 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is $384.96. Total obligation is $10,382.96. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. ♦♦♦2011 Chevrolet Cruze LS FWD RTA, Malibu LS RTC, Equinox LS FWD RTA, Traverse LS FWD RTA, GMC Terrain SLE-1 AWD RTA, Acadia SL AWD RTA, Sierra 1500 Reg. Cab WT 4WD RTA, Silverado 1500 Reg. Cab WT 4WD RTA, Chevrolet Express 2500 Cargo WT RWD RTA, GMC Savana 2500 Cargo WT RWD RTA, Chevrolet Express 3500 Cargo WT RWD RTA, GMC Savana 3500 Cargo WT RWD RTA. Monthly payment is $257.49 for 60 months. $0 down payment. Total obligation is $15,449.40. Cost of borrowing is $1,449.40. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Excess wear and kilometre fees, disposal fee, duties and taxes not included. ♦♦♦♦2011 Chevrolet Cruze LS+ 1SB, 1SD (excludes hybrids) delivered between February 1 and May 2, 2011 at participating dealers in Canada. ‡Offer applies to new or demonstrator 2011 MY Silverado Light Duty Extended and Crew Cab, C/K Models, 1SF, 1SB, 1SD (excludes hybrids) delivered between February 1 and May 2, 2011 at participating dealers in Canada. Dealer order or trade may be required. Offers available to retail customers only and consists of a pre-installed Chrome Accessories package (grille, 6" tubular assist steps, door handles and mirror caps) ("PDJ Truck") valued up to $1500 (tax exclusive). This offer may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See your GM dealer for details. ♦To qualify for the GMCL Cash For Leases Bonus under Lease Busters' Cash For Leases program, you must: (i) be a Canadian vehicle leasing customer with at least four months remaining on your lease, and (ii) execute and complete a lease transfer by listing your vehicle pursuant to a lease-take-over listing on leasebusters.com. Lease listing and transfer fees apply. Cash For Leases Bonus, a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive), is available to eligible retail customers, for use towards the purchase/finance/lease of a new eligible 2010/2011 MY Buick/Chevrolet/GMC/Cadillac vehicle delivered between 01/13/2011–06/30/2011. Incentive may not be combined with certain other offers. Some conditions apply, GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offer in whole or in part at any time without notice. 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Visit www.rideyourrun.ca (www.vaspd.ca for residents of B.C.) for more information. **Factory order or dealer trade may be required. △2011 Chevrolet Cruze equipped with standard 1.8L ECOTEC I-4 engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. 2011 Chevrolet Malibu equipped with standard 2.4L ECOTEC I-4 engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. 2011 Chevrolet Equinox FWD, 2011 Chevrolet Traverse FWD, Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2011 Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ©For more information go to lifecycleratings. Available in 10 Canadian provinces and the 48 contiguous United States. Subscription sold separately after trial period. ‡Subject to Vehicle Redemption Allowance. For complete GM Card Program Rules, including current Redemption Allowances, visit ontariogmcard.ca. 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Visit www.rideyourrun.ca (www.vaspd.ca for residents of B.C.) for more information.

Engine

The starting-point engine is a V6, but it will initially be the 302-horsepower 3.5-litre unit for the SLK 350. Mercedes-Benz reports that the V6 SLK will sprint to 96 km/h in 5.6 seconds.

Later in the model year — likely early 2012 — a new base-model SLK250 is expected, sporting a 201-horsepower turbocharged 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine that replaces the outgoing 228-horsepower 3.0-litre V6.

Magic Sky Control

The SLK's signature lightweight power-retractable hardtop returns for the 2012 model year, but you can now opt for a panoramic glass roof that can be ordered with "Magic Sky Control."

With the press of a button, the glass can be changed from a dark tint to clear, depending on the time of day or to suit your personal preference.

Spruced-up interior

Coming in for some sprucing up is the SLK's interior that showcases a new flat-bottom steering wheel, plenty of brushed aluminum trim on the centre console, plus four oversized chromed air vents that don't quite seem to fit with the car's otherwise restrained cabin design.

Optional are special leather coverings that keep the seats cooler by reflecting the sun's rays.

▶ It's the least expensive Mercedes-Benz convertible, but do you really need much more than the SLK to make a statement while enjoying the open air?

Feel good and look good in this drop-top

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

With 110 years of sports-car history in its back pocket, Mercedes-Benz has learned a thing or two about what makes these cars and their proud owners tick.

And this vast experience is packed into the 2012 SLK roadster that's due to arrive this summer.

Style and substance are necessary ingredients for any sports car, but, for Mercedes-Benz, how the vehicle makes you feel and how others see you behind the wheel are perhaps treated with equal importance.

SLK customers will likely feel and look particularly good with this third-generation drop-topper. As well, anyone approaching the SLK from afar will instantly notice the dominating three-pointed star affixed to the grille. In fact, they might even mistake the SLK for the similar-looking SL or even the SLS AMG relations that cost considerably more.

The king-size Mercedes-Benz logo is part of a larger and more upright grille, one-piece lower air intake and enlarged all-LED (Light Emitting Diode) headlamps that provides the illusion that the SLK is much lower and wider than its predecessor.

There's no word yet regarding the return of a high-performance AMG version, so for now the fuel-sipping four-cylinder and more mainstream V6 will have to do.

However, for SLK drivers it's how you arrive that's just as important as how rapidly you arrive. Either way, you're practically guaranteed to get there with a smile.

▶ From this angle you can see that the nose is almost perpendicular to the road.

▶ A rear view of the SLK.

SLK-Class

What you should know about the 2012 Mercedes-Benz SLK-Class:

- **Type:** Two-door luxury hardtop convertible.
- **Engine (hp):** 1.8-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (201); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (302)
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual (std.,1.8), Seven-speed automatic (opt. with 1.8, std. with 3.5).
- **Market Position:** The SLK is the starting point in a trio of impressive sports cars that tops out with the $200,000 SLS AMG.
- **Points:** Front-end styling is more aggressive and luxurious; Trick day/night sunroof will be popular option.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 11.6/8.0 (3.5, est.)

5 drive

By comparison

Audi TTS roadster
Base price: $54,500
Four-wheel-drive soft-top sticks to four-cylinder turbo engine choices.

BMW Z4
Base price: $55,000
Recent facelift has this "Bimmer" looking and acting better than ever.

Infiniti G37
Base price: $60,200
Two + two folding hardtop model comes with 325-hp V6 plus plenty of extras.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Spring survival kit for hitting the open road

If you're heading for the road, you need to be prepared 11 products to make the most of your spring adventures

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

You never know when you'll need to break out the short sleeve shirts, sunglasses and sunscreen and head out for a road trip! Here are some new and interesting products for your spring survival kit.

Re-mastered sound
As a record producer and sound engineer, Tony Bongiovi supplied his services to many flamboyant clients. Now add Toyota to the list. The Bongiovi Acoustics Digital Power Stations (DPS) is the world's first 100 per cent digital sound processor certified for automotive use. Right now it is only available for 2010 and 2011 Toyota vehicles. Prices start at $280, not including installation. Available at Toyota Canada dealerships.

Running on empty?
Get a GasBuddy App for your phone (Android, iPhone or Windows), and find the cheapest gas on the go — right across North America. GasBuddy.com gathers prices via a network of volunteer gas price spotters in each area. gasbuddy.com.

Fuel saving tires
Gas prices getting you down? The dB Super E-spec from Yokohama is designed to replace the super fuel-efficient tires on hybrid models, but will also work on other vehicles. Not only do these tires net more clicks per litre, but they are manufactured with more organic compounds — including "natural" rubber and orange oil. See yokohama.ca for a list of Canadian dealers.

See... fabulous!
ZZ Top thinks cheap sunglasses are the bomb, but anyone who drives a lot needs sunglasses made specifically for the job. Serengeti Martinio with Driver Gradient lenses are darker at the top and lighter at the bottom. The premium glass lenses shade harsh light from above while providing a clear view of the dashboard below. Available where sunglasses are sold including Sunglass Hut.

Hard-core off-road trailers
Your Jeep can make it there, but can your camping trailer? It can if it's one of the new trailers made specifically for the hard-core off-road enthusiast. This Jeep Extreme Trail Edition features a heavier frame, 35-inch off-road tires, 15-inches of ground clearance, full underbody skid plate, high fenders, and 360-degree axis pintle hitch. Contact your local Jeep dealership for more information.

Porsche... makes it good!
If the new Porsche Panamera Turbo is too rich for your blood ($156,000), consider the Porsche Panamera Turbo Chronograph watch for only $935. But hurry — only 1,000 of these limited-edition pieces will be offered. If you think your significant other might nix the deal, consider placating them with the official Porsche Motorsport Bear ($90). Available at www.shop4.porsche.com/canada.

Cool cleaning products
Spring cleaning time! Get your vehicle shining inside and out — including the tires — with new products from Mothers. Mothers California Gold Carnauba Wash & Wax gets your vehicle shining — fast — and pumps up the "bead factor" between "regular" wax treatments. Mothers LVR cleans the interior of modern vehicles... leather, vinyl and rubber! Mothers Back to Black Tire Shine will give tires a new lease on life with protection and a high-gloss finish. Available at Canadian Tire stores.

Navigation
Why rely on that unbalanced person riding shotgun for directions when modern navigations systems are more affordable and easier to use? This Garvin Nuvi 1490T features a five-inch display, Bluetooth, lifetime traffic updates, lane assist with junction view, and more. Available at Canadian Tire stores.

Pack more
The Thule Quest Cargo Bag is an expensive and simple way to quickly expand your luggage capacity. It holds 13 cubic feet of gear, up to a total of 100 pounds. Works with various roof racks, and is built to take the pounding of car-top life. Available at Canadian Tire stores.

Hold on!
The Textrax GPS Mount secures your GPS unit, or other mobile device, to a vent in your vehicle's dashboard, using a unique grabbing method — and magnets. No suction cups rings on your windshield! Keep sight lines clear too. Made in Italy. Available at Canadian Tire stores.

Sound appeal
JVC's new "Double Din" auto stereo, fills up two "dins" (or component slots) in your console, to offer that sleek look of factory-installed stereos units. The bigger size makes it easier to navigate as well. Also includes a remote, and all the connectivity you need. Available at Canadian Tire stores.

THE ALL-NEW 2011 JETTA

Lease the 2011 Jetta Trendline+, with Air Conditioning from

$189 /month for 48 months at **3.9%** APR*

A small price to pay to make your neighbour jealous.

2011 Golf Wagon
$229 /month 48-month lease
3.9% APR*

2011 Tiguan
$299 /month 48-month lease
1.9% APR*

2011 CC
$399 /month 48-month lease
3.9% APR*

Das Auto.

vw.ca

*Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2011 Jetta Sedan 2.0L Trendline+ / 2011 Golf Wagon 2.5L / 2011 Tiguan 2.0T / 2011 CC 2.0T, base model with 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 6-speed manual transmission / 6-speed manual transmission. Dealer may lease for less. $1,365/$1,365/$1,580/$1,365 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 48-month term. $1,303/$4,158/$3,614/$4,505 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $250/$280/$350/$460 security deposit, $100 air conditioning levy, $29 EHF (tires), $5 OMVIC fee, up to $499 dealer administrative fee and first monthly payment due at lease inception. License, insurance, registration, options and applicable taxes are extra. Total lease obligation: $10,375/$15,150/$17,966/$23,657. 64,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. Offers end March 31, 2011 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. 2011 Jetta Comfortline 2.0L as shown is $25,251. 2011 Golf Wagon 2.5L Comfortline as shown is $26,073. 2011 Tiguan Highline 2.0T as shown is $43,438. 2011 CC Highline 2.0T as shown is $41,273. Models may not be exactly as shown. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Jetta", "Golf" and "Tiguan" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" and "CC" are trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2011 Volkswagen Canada.

This baby breathes fire

Jaguar's supercharged performance coupe a svelte monster — and a relative bargain, too

DREAM CAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

▶ The Jaguar XKR definitely needs to be seen in person. But in the meantime, enjoys these shots of this sexy machine.

CHRIS KOSKI/FOR METRO

CHRIS KOSKI/FOR METRO

Stand next to the 2011 Jaguar XKR, and nervous pangs might start coursing through your midsection.

Like any gorgeous landscape, sculpture or building, photographs simply don't do this machine justice. It's one of those things that needs to be seen in person — and when it is, its visual punch is stunning, captivating and almost nerve-wracking.

XKR is styled with emotion and passion beyond the norm for its price range. The pictured tester's optional 'Black Pack' even added some goodies like a front lip, rear spoiler and gloss-black wheels for further effect.

Comfortably seated on board the leather and suede-lined cabin, drivers start the five-litre, supercharged V8 engine with the touch of a button, after which point a metal shift-dial rises from the console. Twist to select your desired gear.

Then, optionally, a 'Dynamic Driving Mode' can be engaged for additional suspension stiffness, throttle response and a more aggressive gearshift pattern. Click this button, and the XKR starts acting like it's gotten into the catnip.

XKR puts 510 horsepower at the driver's disposal, and allows browsing of six automatic gears via a set of steering wheel-mounted shift paddles.

The slick automatic transmission changes gears quickly and self-blips the throttle for rev-matched downshifts. Power delivery at full throttle is liquid smooth, very potent, and nearly frightening as the revs approach the 6,500 RPM redline.

At any touch of the accelerator, the XKR squats back, leaps ahead, and snorts like an off-shore speed boat at full rip. With the windows down, drivers can even hear the meaty, crackling exhaust bark reflecting off of nearby buildings. It sounds like gunfire and testosterone, and may cause sleeplessness. Good luck getting this sound out of your head.

Approx price: $115,000

Handling and braking back up the power. Massive brakes clamp down with authority from first touch and offer decent feel, while the XKR's heavy frame and long wheelbase add a sense of high-speed stability and plantedness for cornering.

The steering feels nicely matched to the machine's size and chassis, and XKR should entertain track-going owners for hours with predictable behaviour and a lenient stability control system.

Of course, the XKR is a Jaguar as much as a fire-breathing super-coupe, so it's also surprisingly comfortable, solid and smooth on virtually any surface.

The highway ride is quiet and peaceful, steering is relatively light, and in its more comfortable setting, the suspension soaks up virtually anything the road throws its way with minimal fuss.

Standard coupe complaints apply — including virtually useless rear seats and limited rearward visibility.

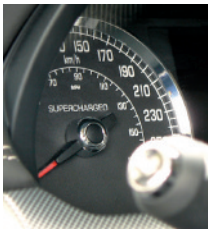
And the supercharged V8 engine quickly turns premium unleaded into lusty sound effects when driven hard, though highway cruising mileage is respectable.

How much? As tested, about $115,000.

That's simply astrological to the masses, though it doesn't even open the bidding for the models from Aston Martin, Ferrari or Maserati that passersbys often compare it to.

End of the day, the XKR combines an angry split personality with one of the most beautiful bodies on the road at a great price — relatively speaking.

Jaguar XKR



- **Engine:** 5.0-litre V8, direct-injected, supercharged, 510 horsepower.
- **Drivetrain:** Rear-wheel drive.
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic with paddle shift.
- **Features:** Navigation, heated windshield, Bluetooth, Dynamic Driving Mode.
- **What's Hot:** Gorgeous looks, killer performance, everyday comfort and luxury.
- **What's Not:** Gets thirsty when pushed, tiny rear seats.
- **Price as Tested:** $115,000

Much thought goes into car colours

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

For many people, the final deciding factor on a car is its colour. The palette of available shades may seem arbitrary, but in reality, the decision on what colours to offer is an integral part of a car's design.

Fashion trends, consumer preferences and even the limitations of the assembly line all play a role, says Michelle Killen, lead exterior paint designer for General Motors.

She uses market research, looks at the competition, and attends "trend shows" put on by paint suppliers to determine what colours you'll see next.

"If we're designing a new colour for a full-size truck, we look for activities such as outdoorsman or canoeing and see what will influence the products that will be used," Killen says. "If kayaks or hiking bags have a bright orange, we'll pull that."

She works with paint suppliers, identifying traits that she wants in the paint and tweaking the colour to get the shade she wants.

"Maybe we want slightly more green, or to lighten the colour, and it goes back and forth," she says. "We have to decide if we want it to be a solid paint, or if it's metallic, do we want it to be subtle or extravagant."

Killen faces several other challenges, including the fact that she's working four years in advance of the car coming to the showroom, and that auto plants are limited in how many colours the assembly line can handle.

"It depends on the plant, but on average, we have between 10 and 12 colours," Killen says. "After your seven core colours, you have a small window and all of these great colours, and trying to decide what you're going to put in there is one of the trickier parts."

Once a colour is developed, it's painted onto a vehicle and assessed. It's not uncommon for a colour to miss the mark on one model but look great on another, and shades can get switched around.

As well, test cars get parked in Florida for two years, to confirm that the paint won't fade or crack in the sun.

Overall, North Americans are conservative: the top colours are white, black, silver, grey and red.

Extra costs

- Some colours cost extra, mostly because of paint cost and complexity. Three-coat metallic paints put a layer of metal flake in the middle to improve its sparkle, while tint-coat paint adds pigment to the top coat, which is normally clear, to create a greater depth of colour.

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HWY 6.9L/100 KM (41 MPG)†
CITY 9.5L/100 KM (30 MPG)†

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all-in lease $0 Down payment

$197* @ 3.4% APR for 60 months

per month when you apply the $2,000* Cash Incentive. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

0.9% APR¥ Purchase financing for 48 months.

HWY 6.1L/100 KM (46 MPG)†
CITY 7.8L/100 KM (36 MPG)†

2011 COROLLA CE

all-in lease $0 Down payment

$179* @ 3.4% APR for 60 months

per month when you apply the $2,000* Cash Incentive. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

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Toyota glad program

TWO AND A HALF CANADIAN SUPERCARS

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@ METRONEWS.CA

You're shopping for a mid-engine supercar with carbon-fibre construction and at least 750 horsepower — and it must be designed and built in Canada. How many options do you have?

Would you believe, "two and a half?" Do you not find that weird? Weird that the answer is not zero ... Weird that Charlie Sheen keeps cropping up no matter what you start talking about.

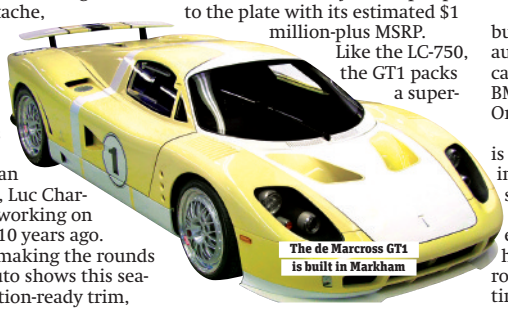
One of the cars on the list is the Plethore LC-750 designed and built in St-Eustache, Que. We've been aware of the LC-750 for some time (and spoken about it in this space before), because the man behind the car, Luc Chartrand, started working on this car about 10 years ago.

It has been making the rounds of Canadian auto shows this season, in production-ready trim, and the company is now in a position to start delivering examples — at $450,000 each.

So that's option "one." Option "two" is the de Marcross GT1. The de Marcross Motors Corporation (DMMC) was founded by Jahong Hur, a successful Korean businessman with family ties to GS Group, one of Korea's largest conglomerates. DMMC, with administrative offices in Vancouver, intends to build several de Marcross models, in addition to this just-introduced GT1 flagship.

Hur styled, conceived and bankrolled the car, but it was engineered and built by Multimatic, of Markham.

Multimatic also created production tooling, so it can build more GT1s — if anyone steps up to the plate with its estimated $1 million-plus MSRP.



The de Marcross GT1 is built in Markham

Like the LC-750, the GT1 packs a supercharged V8. The GT1's chassis tub is carbon fibre, but its body panels, and front and rear substructures are aluminum (the LC-750 is all carbon fibre and/or composite material).

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The HTT Plethore LC-750 is made in St-Eustache, Que.

Multimatic engineers and builds auto parts; its list of automaker clients includes practicably everybody — from Ford to BMW to Aston Martin to Formula One racing teams.

Which brings us to why there is a "half" option, when considering Canadian-made carbon-fibre supercars.

In conduction with its U.K. engineering facility, Mutlimatic has engineered the complete rolling chassis of the Aston Martin One-77 — a super-exclusive $2 million supercar (only 77 will be built).

Multimatic also constructs the One-77's state-of-the-art carbon fibre chassis structure right at its Markham facility.

We had a quick tour of where the Aston tubs are built up and it looks more like a fabric enterprise than a typical body shop, as technicians cut and layer the raw sheets of carbon fibre. We also saw the big oven, where finished tubs are baked to perfection.

So take that, Tim Hortons. You may bake more units than Plethora and Multimatic, but these guys have it all over you when it comes to high tech and structural stiffness.

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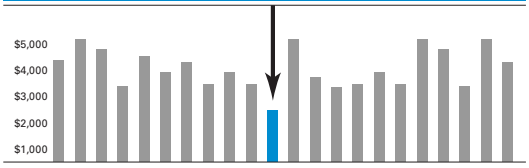

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JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

▶ The Neon-based SRT4 (left), which this review was based on, was later replaced by a Caliber-based SRT4 (right).

Performance to price is nice

Dodge's affordable performance weapon was tough and reliable ◐ Horsepower gives you serious bang for your buck

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Launched in 2003 to a primarily Japanese-dominated market of affordable performance cars, the Dodge SRT4 had a simple goal: delivering the ultimate performance in its class.

Effectively a tweaked-up Neon with a 230-horsepower turbocharged punch and various chassis and cosmetic upgrades, the SRT4 was designed to deliver top levels of styling, acceleration and handling. Shoppers can look for up to 230 horsepower, as well as a limited slip differential and larger fuel injectors on 2004 and 2005 models. All models got a five-speed manual transmission.

Don't miss the large spoiler, dual exhaust, lowered suspension and hood scoop, either. Ultimately, the SRT4 was as mean looking as the googly-eyed Neon ever looked.

Those shoppers prioritizing maximum speed and power for their money won't be disappointed. Look for bolstered sport seats, power front windows (the rear windows were manual) a sunroof and an upgraded audio system.

Many SRT4 owners take to online forums to show off their rides, discuss upgrades and bash imported sports cars. As a result, there's a huge online community and plenty of resources available for new owners.

What Owners Like

Looks, power output, performance, handling and relative attainability are all strong points of the SRT4 as stated by owners. Those into aftermarket customization also love the slew of available add-ons in the marketplace.

What Owners Hate

Some owners report that the sport seats are too narrow, stiff and unforgiving on long trips. Others wish for a more premium look and feel to the cabin, a more comfortable and quiet ride, and a quieter exhaust system.

Note that performance enthusiasts typically accept the SRT4's refinement compromises, given its performance-to-price ratio.

Common Issues

Chrysler had been producing the Neon for years before its evil twin was released, and they've got plenty of experience with turbocharged engines, too. As such, the SRT4 appears to offer above-average reliability in a used sports model. Your writer's research, perhaps surprisingly, revealed no glaring issues, recalls or major concerns.

Of course, standard used sports-car shopping rules still apply.

Mainly, be weary of a used SRT4 that's had obvious modifications performed.

Aftermarket exhaust systems may not be street legal, and the same may be true for aftermarket exterior lighting. If the vehicle has been lowered, be sure to check underneath the bumpers and body for scrapes or dents.

Don't forget to check the condition of the engine oil and expendables like brake pads, the clutch, and tires. A trip to a dealer mechanic may be in order to give the car the once over for peace of mind.

The Verdict

A well-priced, healthy and un-modified Dodge SRT4 should reliably provide budget velocity and killer looks for years to come.

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2003 to 2005 Dodge SRT4
- **Vehicle Type:** Compact performance sedan
- **Approximate used price range:** $6,500 to $12,000

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Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. †Offer valid from February 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011 (the "Program Period"). Receive a maximum of [$500] / [$1000] worth of selected Ford custom accessories, factory installed options, or Customer Cash with the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Ford [Fiesta, Focus, Escape]/[Fusion, Mustang (excluding GT 500), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Expedition, E-Series, Transit Connect] (each an "Eligible Vehicle") during the Program Period (the "Offer"). Offer must be applied to the Eligible Vehicle. The Eligible Vehicle must be delivered or factory ordered during the Program Period. Taxes payable on the total price of the Eligible Vehicle (including accessories and factory options), before the Offer value is deducted. This Offer is subject to vehicle, accessory, and factory installed option availability. Dealer may sell for less. Only one (1) Offer may be applied toward the purchase or lease of each Eligible Vehicle. This Offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. This Offer is not combinable with GPA, GPC, Daily Rental Allowances or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFP). Limited time offer. Offer may be cancelled at any time without notice. Some conditions apply. Offer available to retail customers in Canada only. See Dealer for details. ††Lease new 2011 Ford Fiesta S 5 Door Manual with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound for $248 bi-weekly (or $248 weekly) for 48 months at 3.99% APR. Base payment is $4,048 x 3.99% APR. Lease payment is $3,988 for a total of $7,904 plus $1,075 down payment. Cash Purchase Price is $13,979. Lease new 2011 Ford Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound for $248 bi-weekly (or $248 weekly) for 48 months at 3.99% APR. Base payment is $4,048 x 3.99% APR. Lease payment is $3,988 for a total of $7,904 plus $1,075 down payment. Cash Purchase Price is $13,979. Lease new 2011 Ford Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound for $248 bi-weekly (or $248 weekly) for 48 months at 3.99% APR. Base payment is $4,048 x 3.99% APR. Lease payment is $3,988 for a total of $7,904 plus $1,075 down payment. Cash Purchase Price is $13,979. Lease new 2011 Ford Fiesta S/ Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual/ Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound for $248 bi-weekly (or $248 weekly) for 48 months at 3.99% APR. Base payment is $4,048 x 3.99% APR. Lease payment is $3,988 for a total of $7,904 plus $1,075 down payment. Cash Purchase Price is $13,979/ $17,879/ $18,879 after Manufacturer Rebate of $0/ $0/ $0 and $500/$500/$500 Custom Event incentive deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, PPSA, Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee and $500 Ford Custom Car Event incentive but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. ±Based on highway driving only in 2011 Fiesta 1.6L Duratec I-4 Automatic with SFE Package (668 city km). Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. Vehicle shown is Fiesta SE 5 Door Manual with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound 1.6L I-4 5 speed manual with 7.1L/100km city and 5.3L/100km hwy. ^Some mobile phones and some digital media players may not be fully compatible - check www.syncmyride.com for a listing of mobile phones, media players, and features supported. Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control, accident and injury. Ford recommends that drivers use caution when using mobile phones, even with voice commands. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, not essential to driving when it is safe to do so. SYNC® is optional on most new Ford vehicles and standard on selected Lincoln vehicles.

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2010 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown.§

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Dodge.ca/Offers

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SCAN HERE FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS

NEWS CANADA

▶ When considering buying from a dealership, always remember to comparison shop. Keep in mind that no two dealers are alike.

Spring has sprung, so will your wallet follow as well?

With winter weather slowly coming to a close, many Canadians may be looking for a new vehicle this spring Here are some vehicle-buying tips

For Canadians, spring is all about getting warm, getting out there, and for some, getting a new vehicle.

If hitting the open road in a new or used vehicle is on your horizon this spring, take your time, compare prices, makes and models and really think about what you want in a vehicle.

Here are some vehicle purchasing tips from the Canadian Consumer Handbook (consumerhandbook.ca).

It is produced by the federal, provincial and territorial governments and offers helpful and reliable information truly focused on the consumer. NEWS CANADA

Need vs. want

Think with your head, not your inner sports car driver. What do you really need in a vehicle? What distances and road conditions do you typically travel? Do you travel empty or loaded with gear? Is energy efficiency important to you?

Options are optional

Beware of dealers wanting to sell you vehicles fully loaded with options; they can really increase the cost. You can pick and choose the options you want but when you buy near the end of the model year (typically late spring or summer) you may not be able to get all of your choices, such as a specific colour.

Deal or no deal

Choosing the right dealership is very important. Take time to shop for a dealer whose policies are right for you and always comparison shop. No two dealers are alike.

1/2

Canadian Black Book research shows that over one-half of Canadian drivers have been holding onto their cars longer than in the past. Economic reasons are cited as the main cause.

Leasing vs. buying

Take the time to compare both ownership options before you make your final decision. The difference in interest rates and down payments from different lenders may surprise you. Whatever you decide, make sure you fully understand all details of your contract, especially the total cost of financing over the terms of the loan or lease.

Beware of lemons

Always have an independent mechanic inspect a used vehicle before you buy it. Research its history for accidents. If you think you may have bought a lemon (a vehicle with a manufacturer's defect), check with your provincial or territorial consumer affairs office to see if they can help. While there are no "lemon laws" in Canada, there are measures in place to help you. The Office of Consumer Affairs offers tips for consumers who may have bought a defective vehicle at ic.gc.ca/consumers.

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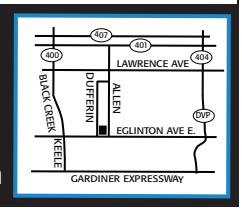

Ford is exploring new paths

Keeping a famous brand from biting the dust means a whole new approach to the modern-day "off-roader"

JEFF MELNYCHUK
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

How does a vehicle that was once the darling of suburbia go from hero to zero? You need to know the answer to that question before trying to revive it.

Ford says the one key reason that the Explorer sport utility vehicle fell out of favour is fuel economy, the very same issue that has ravaged the coveted and highly profitable sport utility ranks in the past couple of years.

If it's not the price of fuel, it's not knowing what it will cost tomorrow. That uncertainty has buyers cutting their losses and heading for the relative safety of more fuel-efficient vehicles, which are generally smaller because weight (and therefore size) are the enemy of economy. They're getting out of sport utes.

The Explorer, like many others, lost out by virtue of not changing with the times and buyer needs. So, how could the Explorer brand of chunky and thirsty offroaders be successfully transformed into a model citizen without losing all its Explorerness?

Clearly, any attempt at resurrection would begin with a relatively blank computer screen to meet new goals of fuel economy.

As it turns out, there was no new magic engine, but rather a raft of changes that led to a claimed 22-per cent improvement over the previous model while boosting horsepower by nearly 40 per cent.

The new Explorer ditches the previous 210-horsepower 4.0-litre V6 for a 290-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 and a new six-speed automatic transmission. Improved aerodynamics, electric power steering, a slight weight savings and a drastically changed 4x4 system all contribute to the fuel savings. A turbocharged four-cylinder engine will be available on front-wheel-drive versions.

That's right, a front-wheel-drive Explorer — with a claimed fuel-economy improvement of 30 per cent over the old 4.0 — which is what Ford has deemed must happen to kick-start the brand.

But what about the off-road part? Clearly, if hard-core off-roading was crucial to a large percentage of Explorer afficionados — and not two per cent as indicated by Ford — then sales likely wouldn't have declined so dramatically in the first place. What apparently really matters is general driving safety and security in more common situations/seasons with the occasional foray through deep mud, sand or snow. These are situations that register with most drivers.

See dealer for full details. Vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Retailer may sell for less. **0% purchase financing available on all 2011 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Term varies by model, see dealer for details. 0% available on 2011 Kia Sportage models for up to 24 months. Representative financing example based on 2011 Kia Sportage (SP55AB) with a selling price of $23,780 (includes destination and delivery fees ($1,650), $5 OMVIC fee, $29 EHF (tires), $1 EHF (filters) and $100 air conditioning tax, where applicable) financed at 0% APR for 24 months. Monthly payments equal $990.85. Cost of borrowing is $0, for a total obligation of $23,780. Other taxes, registration, insurance, licensing, PPSA ($70) and dealer fees (up to $695) are excluded. ^2011 Kia Sportage awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Award applicable to Sportage models manufactured after March 2010. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. △2011 Kia Sportage awarded Car of the Year by Motoring 2011 for Best SUV/CUV (under $40,000) and overall Car of the Year. Visit www.motoringtv.com for full details. ¶Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. Information sourced from independent third-party research. ®The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation. © 2011 Kia Canada Inc. Reproduction of the contents of this material without the expressed written approval of Kia Canada Inc. is prohibited. Offer ends March 31, 2011.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

▶ This is about is as "off-road" as it gets for most drivers, so the focus of the New Explorer is a much-improved overall experience at the expense of extreme boulder hopping. It's Ford's recipe for resurrecting the brand.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

▶ An information centre flanks the central speedometer of the Ford Explorer.

Big-4 settings

- Rather than the usual low-/high-range two-speed transfer case, the 2011 Explorer has four driver-selectable settings (from snow to sand) based on conditions.
- They're controlled by sensors providing wheel-slip and steering-input information to the on-board computer to provide the best traction and safety.
- The two-speed transfer case is gone, but the Explorer can still tow 5,000 pounds or 2,270 kilograms. Now, that feels like a bit of a stretch here in the rolling hills of Quebec where the Explorer's V6 seems to be constantly working hard to make the grade, so to speak.
- Trying out all four surface settings on Ford's impromptu dynamic handling winter course, located in the confines of a snow-packed municipal airport, showed the dramatic differences in the programs.
- The programming of the standard setting will likely keep you out of serious trouble, for the most part, while the winter/snow setting simply did not allow the Explorer to be flung out of control at the low to moderate speeds attained on the winter handling course. It was quite impressive on its own, in these circumstances, on this day and on these tires.
- So, the new Explorer might not be the cliff-climber that the previous model was, but in the interest of acceptance, the 2011 model cuts a much wider swath.

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(Model FA1E4BEX)

or **0.9%** financing up to 60 months.†

LEASE FOR / APR | AT

$198 | 0.9%

PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS*

$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT | **$2348 DOWN** ON APPROVED CREDIT

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STEP UP TO A

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$750 GAS CARD

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*Limited time lease offers on a new 2011 Honda Civic Sedan DX (Model FA1E2BEX) // 2011 Honda Civic Sedan DX-G (Model FA1E4BEX) // 2011 Honda Civic Sedan SE (Model FA1E6BJX) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease examples: 0.9% // 0.9% // 0.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $198 // $198 // $198 [includes $1,395 // $1,395 // $1,395 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100) and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $0 // $2,348 // $2,894 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $9,504 // $11,524 // $12,398. 96,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. †Receive 0.9% purchase financing on select 2011 Honda Civic and 2011 Honda CR-V models only for a maximum of 60 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Example: based on a 2011 Honda Civic DX-G with Manual Transmission (Model FA1E4BEX) on a 60 month term at 0.9% APR and complete price of $20,110 (excluding taxes, license, insurance and registration), the monthly payment is $342. Cost of borrowing is $463 for a total finance obligation of $20,573. Down payment or equivalent trade-in on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. ‡$750 Gas Card offer applies only to retail customer purchase, lease or finance agreements for new 2011 Civic models concluded between March 1st, 2011 and March 31st, 2011 at participating Ontario Honda retailers. $750 Gas Card offer includes GST, PST, HST, QST where applicable and consists of $500 Customer Incentive from Honda Canada Inc. and $250 Customer Incentive from individual Ontario Honda retailers. For all offers: License, insurance, registration, and other taxes (including HST and tax for fuel conservation, if applicable) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Retailer may sell/lease for less. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda retailer or visit hondaontario.com for full details.

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- "ANY ILLNESS HAS HEALING"

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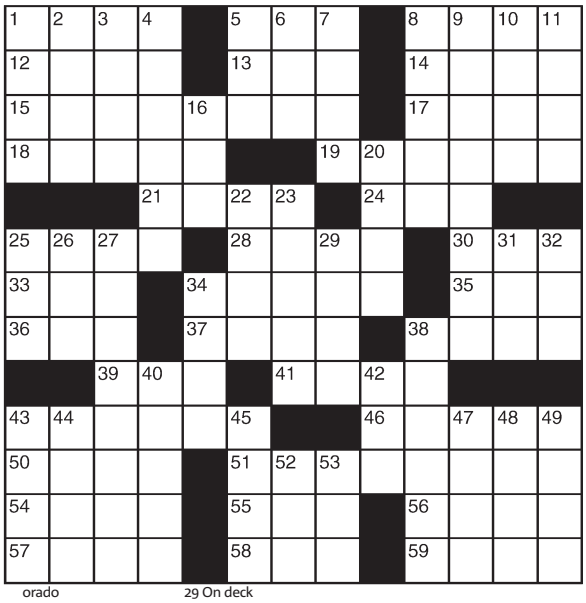

Across

1 Safecracker
5 Collection
8 Memo acronym
12 Seed coat
13 In favour of
14 Sitarist Shankar
15 Soldierly
17 Radar screen noise
18 Defense grp., 1954-77
19 Mate
21 Gear teeth
24 Illustrations
25 Morse "T"
28 Dryer fluff
30 Rd.
33 — Khan
34 Tarzan's transportation
35 Carnival city
36 There
37 Mountain goat
38 Blue shade
39 "This — recording"
41 Celebrity
43 Nursery item
46 Labour camp
50 Birthright barterer
51 Pertaining to funds
54 Swiss city
55 Rage
56 Despot
57 Emulates Simon
58 Ball-bearing item
59 Blood (Pref.)

Down

1 Thanksgiving sides
2 Great Lake
3 River to the Colorado
4 Slight snafu
5 Resort
6 Mess up
7 Santa's sackful
8 Latticework shelter
9 Healthful
10 Hertz rival
11 Prop for Sherlock
16 As well
20 Butter servings
22 Smooth-talking
23 Trig functions
25 Rotation duration
26 Past
27 Very clean
29 On deck
31 Through
32 A long time
34 Test tube
38 Broken-leg aid
40 Stupefies
42 Candle count
43 CSA soldiers
44 On the briny
45 Send out
47 Lounge about
48 Composer Khachaturian
49 Pita sandwich
52 Raw mineral
53 Born

▶ Yesterday's answer

H	A	R	M		R	P	M		B	O	L	A
E	T	U	I		I	I	I		R	A	I	D
N	E	G	L	E	C	T	S		O	R	E	O
			I	R	E		C	E	N	S	U	S
A	G	R	E	E		D	A	R	T			
L	U	A	U		D	I	S	S	E	C	T	S
P	R	Y		B	E	T	T	E		O	U	T
S	U	S	P	E	C	T	S		M	O	T	E
			H	E	R	O		H	O	K	U	M
L	U	P	I	N	E		W	A	D			
O	P	A	L		P	R	O	J	E	C	T	S
T	O	R	I		I	O	N		S	P	A	R
S	N	A	P		T	N	T		T	A	X	I

Sudoku

		3		5		7	9	
4	7		9				1	
		8			6			
		9		6				
6		1				2		3
				1		8		
			7			5		
	1				4		8	7
	2	5		9		4		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

7	3	4	1	2	5	9	8	6
1	6	2	9	3	8	5	4	7
5	9	8	6	7	4	3	2	1
4	7	5	8	6	9	2	1	3
6	2	9	3	1	7	4	5	8
3	8	1	4	5	2	6	7	9
2	1	6	5	8	3	7	9	4
8	4	7	2	9	6	1	3	5
9	5	3	7	4	1	8	6	2

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Buzz, you've taught me so much about life and myself. i'm a better person because of you. I love you more than anything. Can't wait to see what the future holds babe Love Always Baby Girl **NES**

Swamp, I love YOU more. So there. & I wont ever stop. **PANDA**

Princess Yanna! Happy Birthday filled with love and happiness. **B&F LOVE YOU**

Juicy, you truly are special & I enjoy everyday spent with you. Looking forward to sharing my future with you. **LOVE ALWAYS HABIBI XO**

hey G, I'm thinking of you still; if you're thinking of me too, give me a call and we could talk. I miss you **M**

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You like to be on the winning side and there's not much doubt you will be today. Remember though, winning isn't everything. If you get the chance to help someone else win, that will make you feel as good.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Decide on a course of action and stick to it. The more you chop and change, the more likely it is your efforts will fall short and leave you feeling as if you have wasted your time.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If someone says something about you that is obviously not true today, you must not get angry. It will annoy him or her more if you pretend that you are not in the least bit upset.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Someone in a position of authority will ask you to team up with someone you don't really get along with today. Chances are, it is more of an order than a request. Make it work.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 If you allow others to distract you today, chances are you won't get much done. That would be a shame as you have so much going for you now. You cannot afford to be sidetracked by petty issues or petty people.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You seem to be under divine protection at the moment, but that is not an invitation to act recklessly. By all means take a few risks but make sure they are risks you can handle.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Why are you holding back from trying something new? Could it be your sixth sense warning you of dangers ahead? Yes, it could, so be careful. But don't stop altogether.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Take control of your current situation and don't let other people decide what you'll do or how you you'll do it. As a Scorpio, you don't need to care what the world thinks.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There is good and bad in every person. If you keep that in mind today, you are less likely to get caught in one of those "I'm right, you're wrong" shouting matches that don't solve anything.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Be ready to ditch what you don't need so that what you do need has room to come in your life. Don't be sentimental about material possessions.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You're not the sort to let other people's doubts hold you back. That's just as well because you will encounter some negative reactions today. What you are planning is not doomed. It will be a success.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 You may not want to rock the boat but you know that something needs to be done to shake certain people out of their slumber. Aim to inject energy into what has become just another routine. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

DAVE CHIDLEY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIN!

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727 Bloor St. W
1061 St. Clair Ave. W
29B St. Joseph St.
1500 Royal York Rd.
1750 The Queensway
980 Albion Rd.
2610 Weston Rd.
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Comprehensive 5-year Warranty	✓	×	×
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Bluetooth® Handsfree Connectivity	✓	×	×
Fog Lights and Automatic Headlights	✓	×	✓
Heated Front Seats	✓	×	×
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Soul 4u shown

2011 KIA SOUL

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CITY: 7.7L/100KM (37 MPG)

DARE TO COMPARE§	2011 Kia Soul 2U AT	2011 Toyota Matrix Base w/conv. pkg AT	2011 Scion xB Base AT
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Rondo EX shown

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Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies.
Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399 to $699), licensing, PPSA or applicable taxes.

**0% purchase financing available on all 2011 models on approved credit (OAC). Term varies by model and trim. Financing example based on 2011 Rondo (RN75IB) with a purchase price of $21,679. 0% financing for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $0. Delivery and destination fee ($1,650) and other fees ($34) included. OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable) included. License, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699), PPSA and registration fees are extra. Financing example excludes $1,000 loan credit. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. **"Don't Pay for 90 Days" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on 2011 Forte, 2011 Forte Koup, 2011 Forte5, 2011 Rio, 2011 Rio5, 2011 Magentis, 2011 Rondo and 2011 Soul models on approved credit (OAC). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ‹Monthly lease payment for 2011 Kia Sportage (SP55AB) is $279 for 48 months at 2.9% lease APR with a $3,590 down payment. Total lease obligation is $17,001 with the option to purchase at the end of term for $8,433. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available) and $0.10/km for excess kilometres. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable) included. ‹Loan credit (cash savings) for 2011 Soul (SO55OB)/2011 Rondo (RN75IB) is $500/$1,000 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan credit varies by model and trim. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). Vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. ^ Highway/city fuel consumption for 2011 Soul (SO55OB) is 6.3L (45 MPG)/7.7L (37 MPG); 2011 Rondo (RN75IB) is 7.5L (38 MPG)/10.6L (27 MPG); 2011 Sportage (SP55AB) is 6.9L (41 MPG)/10.0L (28 MPG). The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. ^2011 Kia Soul/2011 Kia Sportage awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The award is applicable to all 2011 Sportage models manufactured after March 2010. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ▲"No Charge Scheduled Maintenance" is applicable to all new 2010 and 2011 Kia Rondo and Sedona models retailed and delivered between March 15 and March 31, 2011. This offer is non-transferrable and cannot be used as a cash equivalent. Maintenance covered includes 1-year, 24,000 km basic scheduled maintenance (basic service 1 at 8,000 km, basic service 2 at 16,000 km, basic service 1 at 24,000 km). Maintenance must be completed at an authorized Kia dealer using genuine Kia parts. See dealer for details. ¥Loyalty Bonus offer available on 2011 Kia Sedona/Rondo models at a value of $1,000/$500 for any current Kia owners towards the purchase or lease of a new 2011MY or 2010MY Sedona/Rondo. Offer applicable on cash purchase, lease and purchase financing only between March 15 and March 31, 2011. Offer is transferrable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit of one bonus per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. °The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate Program and $750 Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Offers end March 31, 2011. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation. © 2011 Kia Canada Inc. Reproduction of the contents of this material without the expressed written approval of Kia Canada Inc. is prohibited. All information is believed to be accurate, based on information available at the time of printing. Information sourced from independent third-party research.

$500 Grad Rebate

KIA mobility PROGRAM

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